

The monthly magazine for children

GO KULAM

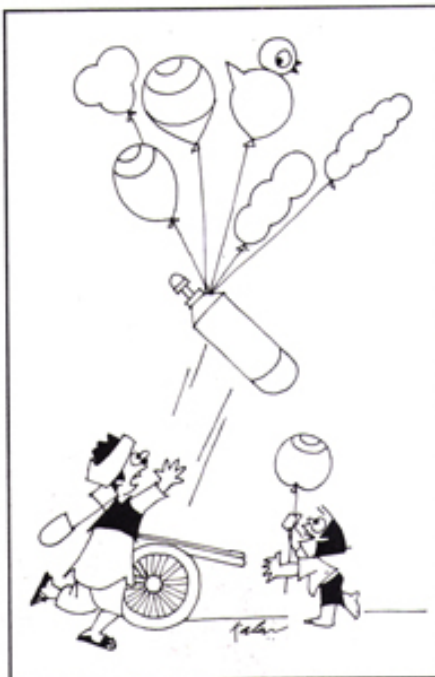
March '99

Rs. 6/-



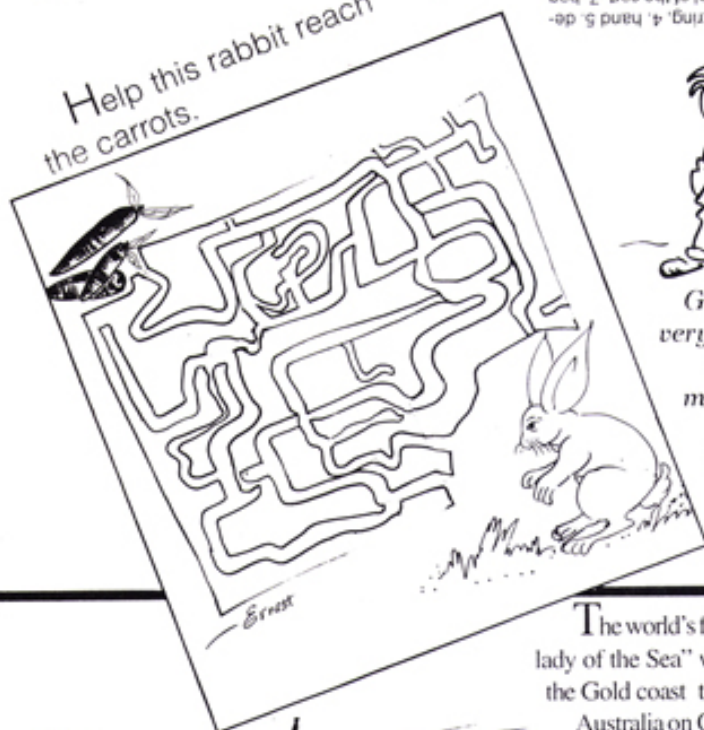
Budget Blues!

SPOT THE 7 DIFFERENCES



Answers: 1. Wing 2. line on balloon 3. string of the cart 4. hand 5. de-sign on the balloon in boy's hand 6. wheel of the cart 7. bag

Help this rabbit reach the carrots.



Gundu: This time I became very famous in our school.

Pora: Did you score high marks?

Gundu: Oh no! Our class lost cent percent result because of me.

B. Shubha, age 15,
Bangalore

First
Floating
Church



The world's first floating Church christened "Our lady of the Sea" was towed past Sanctuary cove on the Gold coast to its mooring spot at South port in Australia on October 2, 1997. The church, which cost more than \$, 350,000 to build and has cedar roof shingles, stained glass windows, a bell tower and original timber paws, can hold a wedding party of upto 50 people who will be taken out to the church by either a luxury cruise boat or a helicopter.

S.K.A, Calcutta

Dear children,

Come February, there is always some discussion on the national budget, and I am reminded of the days when I used to budget for the pocket money I received as a boy!

"Dad" I approached him one day, "Why don't you give us (myself and my elder sister) some pocket money?"

My father immediately approved of the idea. "Of course" he said, "you are old enough to receive pocket money but you must promise me that you will keep an account of the expenses."

"Sure" I replied and instinctively started budgeting for Rs. 2/- I was to receive on the first of the coming month!

You may be surprised, but those were the days when a cup of ice cream was priced at just two annas (i.e.) thirteen paise!

"One ice cream", I said to myself, "and one set of 100 postage stamps of various countries and a packet of hinges." Stamp collection was my favourite hobby then, as it is now. I also decided to save a few annas every month, so that I could buy a cricket ball sooner or later. Right then I was playing with an old tennis ball.

My father insisted on seeing my account note book every month end, before giving me the pocket money for the ensuing month. He was satisfied with the way I was spending and saving. Very soon, my pocket money was increased to Rs. 5/- and later on to Rs. 10/-. By the time I entered college, I was getting Rs. 35/- and that included my afternoon tiffin expenses and bus fare! But a masala dosa cost only three annas those days (19 paise)!

Today, you are sure to get much more as pocket money in tune with the ruling prices. But the amount is not the criterion. What is important is the way you budget it. Make a habit of keeping proper accounts, and also try to save as much as possible for something dear to you, which you have to buy.

This way, you will grow up to be a good accountant and you will be able to manage your finances well. You must also, in the days to come, learn about investments and study the ways by which money multiplies. You must be in a position to evaluate the various investment possibilities so that, you are not carried away by temptations of high returns and be cheated of your capital as well!

Budgeting for the nation is not very different from budgeting for the family. 'Prudence' is the word one should always remember, whether he is the head of the family or the finance minister of the nation!

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.

— William Canton



GOKULAM

Vol. XI, No. 9 MARCH 1999



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K. Rajendran,
Editor

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Cover illustration : JAYARAJ

I read your magazine regularly. I liked the January '99 issue very much. I liked the 'experience' column very much.

**S. Packiaraj,
Kodaikanal.**

I am a 10-year-old girl studying in V standard. I am a new reader. I have been reading your magazine since Nov. '98. My sister is also a fan of your magazine. Do you publish your magazine in Hindi or Malayalam? Thank you for bringing out such an interesting magazine.

**M. Parvathy,
Kottayam.**

Dear Parvathy,

The magazine is published only in English and Tamil.

Thank you for publishing my letter in the Grandma worm section. I now have a pet of my own. His name is 'Moti'. I adopted him from the Blue Cross Society.

**Neelima Chakravarty, VIIB,
St. Joseph's HS, Matigara.**

I sent a story to you. You didn't publish it. Why?

**T.N. Vijayakumar, VIIB,
Little Flower School, Nagari,
Chittoor.**



LETTER BOX

Dear Vijayakumar,

We receive many articles in a day. If your article is selected it will be published in due course. Kindly state when you sent your article. Also, it is better to send in your contribution with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. That way, if your article is not selected we can send it back to you.

I want to send a painting. If it is not published, I want it back. What

should I do? I like Fantasia.

**Meenakshi Mitra, age 12,
Jubilee Hills PS, Hyderabad.**

*Dear Meenakshi,
Please read the reply given to
Vijayakumar's letter.*

I am interested in art. I have
done a few pictures. I want to send
them to you.

**K. Arun Kumar, VIIA,
B.S. MHSS, Chennai.**

*Dear Arun Kumar,
Send your contributions to the
address given on pg. 80 of the magazine.*

*Address your contributions to the
editor, Gokulam (english). If you want
your contributions returned in the
event of them not being selected, you
must enclose a self-addressed, stamped*

envelope.

I am a fan of Gokulam. I have
been reading it for the past three
years. We don't get the magazine
in KGF book stalls. How can I
subscribe to the magazine?

**S.R. Mithun Kumar,
Kolar Gold Field.**

Dear Mithun,

*Fill in the subscription form (page
17) and send in your DD/MO to our
office. You will receive your copy
regularly by post.*

"BALLTOONS" is very interest-
ing.

Well done GOKULAM.

**R.V. Mayilvahanan, age 14,
Madurai.**

BUDDING CHEF

Mango Milk Shake

You need :

2 cups of chopped mangoes

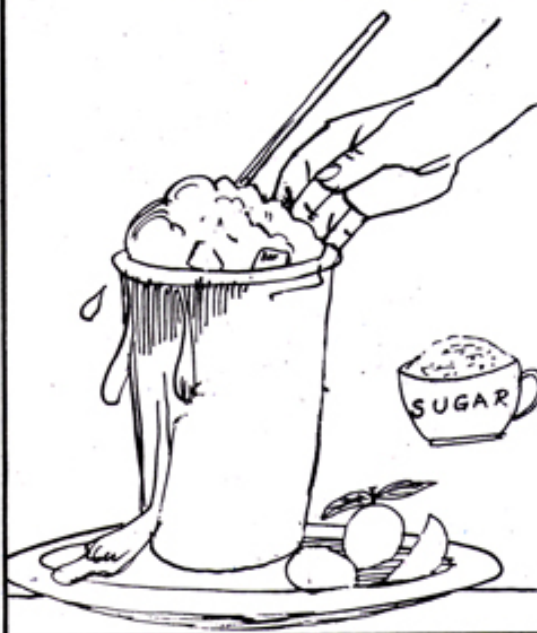
½ litre milk

6-8 tbs sugar

ice cubes

Add the chopped mangoes to a little milk
in a mixie and blend to a smooth paste. Add
the rest of the milk, sugar and ice cubes and
run the mixie for 30 seconds. Serve the milk
shake chilled.

Zeenath Aly, age 12, Palakkad.



Bats have an amazing sense of hearing. They can hear their sound bounce off something as small as a tiny insect in flight. And then they fly fast enough to catch that insect.



Light travels at the speed of 1,86,000 miles a second! Nothing in the entire universe can move faster than a beam of light.



WONDERFUL FACTS



The oldest bulb still in use is in the fire house at Livermor, California. It has been there since 1901.

Fireflies use their light to find mates. Male fireflies follow the flashing lights of the female.

Iccha Sethi, age 10, PSBB, Chennai



AWAY WITH PLASTICS

Of late there's much noise about banning plastic bags. The Mumbai Municipal Corporation has proposed a ban on plastic bags.

Plastic is non-biodegradable. It cannot be broken down by bacteria present in the soil. Plastic poisons the environment. It chokes the soil and prevents healthy development of plants.

Here's an experiment. Bury a plastic bag, a paper bag, a banana peel and a leather shoe at four different places in your house garden. Remember to dig a pit of the same size for all four things.

Observe what has happened to these items after a week.

R. Harish, Thane



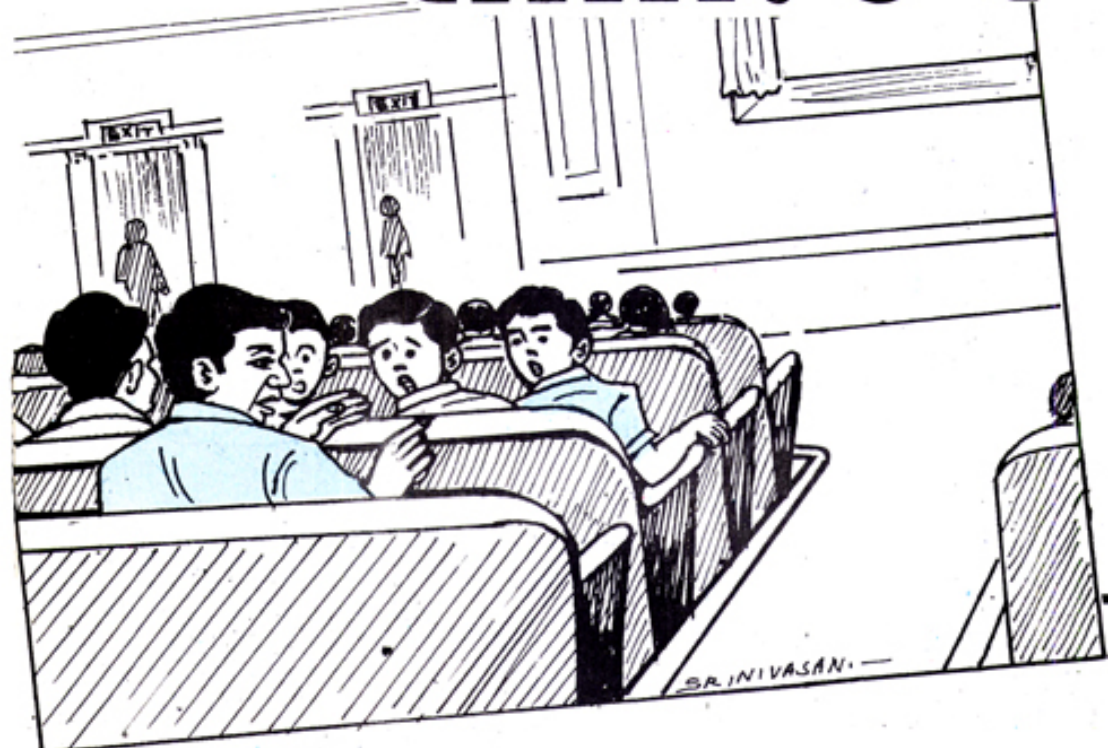
Karthik, Ajmal and Sekar were close friends. They studied in the same school. Every teacher in their school knew them well. They were very mischievous. They were in class IX. No teacher who entered class IX D, could teach the children. The three boys were forever playing pranks on teachers.

One day during the Moral Science class, Mr. Dhumale was explaining "Right and Wrong." Mr. Dhumale said — "Students, now you are passing through a

stage in your life when you are considered neither a child nor an adult. A particular action of yours can be construed wrongly. If you laugh at a joke that's alright. If you laugh at others, it is not right..."

The teacher proceeded with his lecture. One of the trio threw a chalk at the teacher. Mr. Dhumale said, "I know who threw the

A REEL CHANGE



chalk. If he admits to his deed, I shall pardon him with just a warning."

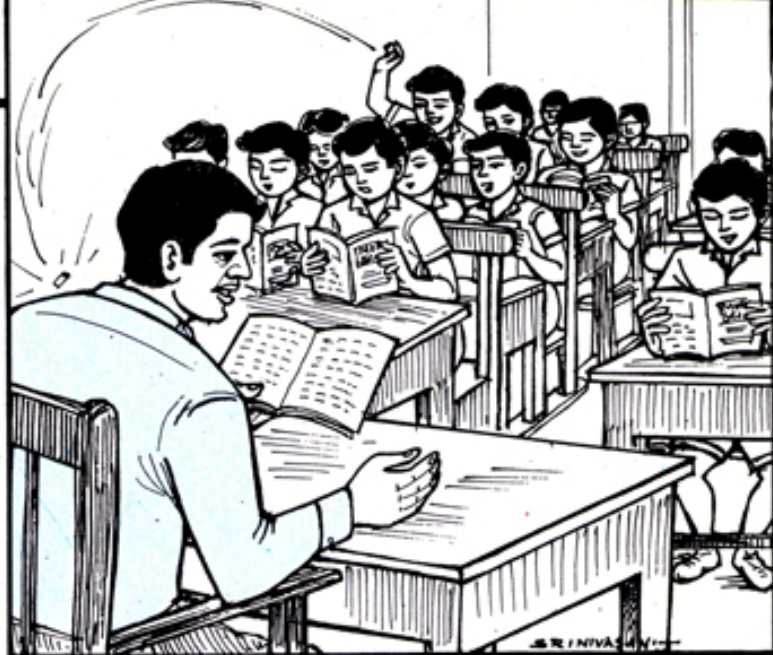
When nobody stood up Mr. Dhumale called out the names of Karthik, Ajmal and Sekar. He sent all the three boys out of the class. Mr. Dhumale warned that the matter will be reported to the principal.

When Karthik reached home he was greeted by his cousin Sonu. Sonu and his father had arrived from Delhi for a week's vacation.

Sonu suggested that they go to a movie. Karthik said he wanted his friends to come along too. Soon, Sonu, Karthik and his friends were seated in the theatre. Karthik commented loudly about the actors on the screen. They narrated the story of the film to each other.

"See, he'll bash up the villain in the next scene" Karthik commented loudly.

People sitting next to them and behind them kept shooing them.



But the boys continued with their loud comments.

Somebody touched Karthik's shoulder and said, "Look, we know that you've seen the movie already. Passing comments once in a while is ok. Your loud comments are disturbing the others. You must respect other people's sentiments too."

Just then the lights came on and Karthik turned back to see the man who had spoken to him. It was the Moral Science teacher.

After that Karthik and his friends watched the rest of the movie silently.

In the ensuing weeks Mr. Dhumale was pleased to find a drastic change in the boys' behaviour.

R. Chitra, Dehradun.

NEWSBITS

A bag of tricks

The Indian rope trick is a strange event wherein a rope is thrown into the air and it stays erect while the magician plays a pipe. A child climbs up the rope. This formed a part of the street magic show of ancient India.

The street magicians who amazed spectators with their tricks had been so far forgotten. They are being given a new lease of life now. Another trick of ancient India is the mango tree trick. The magician will plant a



mango seed
right before your eyes.
And you can watch it sprout!

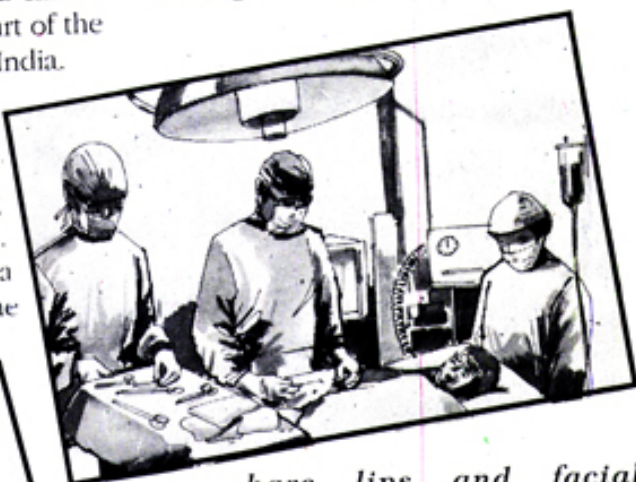
Here's another trick for the sceptics. The magician will mix a bowl of sugar and sand in water. Then just in front

of your eyes he will separate both sand and sugar from the water.

Street magicians of the north have made Mattenchery, Kerala their home today. In February the Cochin Magic Society staged Om Hreem '99. In this 3-week programme about 25 different magic shows were staged.

Plastic surgery

A team of plastic surgeons is planning to visit 17 countries. They will help to rectify children with



hare lips and facial deformities. They also plan to treat burns and injuries on the face.

Ghosts sighted

Security cameras placed outside a museum (formerly a country mansion) in England recorded apparitions during christmas season. One of the apparitions appeared to be a woman in Victorian dress. The staff have sent the video tape to a research laboratory. Investigators of paranormal phenomena are trying to clear up the doubts!

One day as soon as Akbar entered the court, he put forth a question to his ministers. "Can anyone tell me, how I should punish a person who has pulled my beard?" Everyone looked puzzled.

One minister said, "You

except your sweet little prince or princess?" replied Birbal.

Akbar was pleased with Birbal's suggestion because that morning the little prince had pulled his beard. That was why he had put such a strange question to his minis-

SWEET PUNISHMENT

should cut off the head of such a person, your majesty."

Another minister said, "such a person should be trampled by an elephant." After all the ministers had suggested a variety of punishments, Akbar turned to Birbal and said, "Tell me, Birbal, how should I punish the person who pulled my beard?"

Birbal smiled and said, "Your majesty, give him sweets."

Akbar said, "Yes, you really are clever. But tell me why should I give him sweets?"

"Your majesty, who could dare to touch your beard,

ters.

**T. Manju Mariya, age 12,
St. Anthony GHS, Mumbai**



"O ur geography teacher is terrible!" complained Brother Undir. "I'm beginning to dislike geography class be-

ography class, in any case?" demanded Papa Undir.

"Nothing! I wasn't even reading it! I had taken it to school to lend it to my friend Chatty mouse! She saw it on my desk and confiscated it."

"That's not such a bad thing!" Papa Undir tried to explain. "You can always ask for it back after class. Go and meet her tomorrow outside the class and explain. She should understand."



Brother Undir wondered whether he ought to do such a

TEACHER

cause of her!"

"Isn't that Miss Rani? The new teacher in school?" asked Sister.

"But I thought you were rather impressed with her!" remarked Mama Undir, a little surprised.

Rani was the new geography teacher. She was from Delhi. The children had great expectations of her. After all she looked so good - with a touch of style and bright clothes, she was much more than just neat and tidy. Her confident walk, her way of talking and general demeanour had impressed the children in the beginning. But it seemed as if things had changed.

"Well, yesterday she took away my story book! I don't think it's ever going to come back to me!" complained Brother.

"You probably deserved it! What were you doing with a story book in ge-

thing. Was it too bold? What if Rani Miss scolded him instead of returning his book? Wasn't it only last week that the whole class had been punished because they had been noisy. She had told the class that her young son, who was about the same age, never misbehaved like them.

Well, they were not really at fault, so thought Brother Undir. Miss did not teach them much that day. She just asked them to read on their own while she was correcting something from another class. "Come exam time, and she'll tell us to complete the syllabus on our own!" complained someone in a whisper. "What?" asked Chatty, wanting to be in on everything that was being said. "Who's going to finish the por-

tions? Miss or us?" whispered someone loudly in reply. "Shut up, goody-goody! Let's play book cricket! Here catch!" said another. One thing led to another and very soon there was pandemonium. An angry Rani Miss gave them an imposition to write. Each of them had to write a hundred times :

I will not talk in class.

I will not talk in class.

How they all groaned! Not that it made the message sink in. How could it, when you mechanically write without thinking all the 'I's first, then the 'will's and so on :

I will not talk in class.

I will

I will

your book later - at the end of the term! I'm busy now" was all that Miss said. Brother returned disappointed. Chatty was very angry, he had been really looking forward to reading the book. And to top it all Papa and Mama thought it was wrong to criticise your teachers! Anyway, Brother and Chatty made up a naughty rhyme about their teacher :

"Rani Miss comes to class,

Teaching us is just a farce;

Confiscations, impositions,

Will she ever finish portions?

Pretty looking, very fine,

But she makes us moan and whine!"

But in the next geography period Miss surprised them all. Instead of a boring talk on rocks, she announced a nature trip to observe different types of sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks. "Bring your notebooks and pencils. I'll be teaching you how to observe some natu-

TROUBLE

The next day in school Brother and Chatty discussed the matter of the story book. "How do I get the book back from Rani Miss?" asked Brother Udir. "Why not take your father's suggestion and ask her after class?" suggested Chatty who was rather keen to get his hands on the book. Chatty waited while Brother Udir went into the staff room to talk to Rani Miss. "We'll talk about



Each of you write a hundred times!

ral phenomenon and to record them. We'll be using the school bus. And don't forget to bring some money to spend too!" The whole class was surprised and pleased! What a great idea. Ge-

UNDIR STORY

ography was not that bad after all!

The next day Brother's class was all ready and lined up waiting for the day trip. Geography Miss came along. Everyone piled into the bus. A head count was made. There were twenty five of them, and in addition there was the teacher and the driver. There were shouts of "I want the window seat!" "Hey, block a seat next to you. I don't want to sit next to a boy!" "Where's my bag?" and so on. Miss took the seat near the driver. And soon they were off.

After a while there was a stop near a shop. Miss asked every one for fifteen rupees. "We need to buy some bottled water for everybody" she announced. Brother and Chatty were selected to go around and collect the money. Very soon the job was done and the money handed over to Miss. With the help of the bus driver she hauled up all the bottles and began to distribute them. "One per head!" she announced.

"But a bottle of water costs just ten rupees!" said Chatty mouse.

"Then why did Miss take fifteen?" Brother wanted to know. "Perhaps she will return the rest later" thought Brother. Or perhaps she would buy something else.



But no. That did not happen. They were all watching. By the end of the trip they had made up yet another Rani Miss rhyme :

"When are ten and fifteen same?
When Rani Miss plays the game;
With five rupees a bottle gain,
Is she mad or very sane?"

On the way back to school after the trip Brother Undir's class started singing the rhyme louder and louder. Those who were silent at first also began to join the chorus. It finally got the teacher's attention. And what a rage she got into when she realised what the class was singing! "Silence!" she yelled, louder than the singing. "Why are you all so petty? I'm sure all of you can afford a few rupees!" So saying she threw some of the extra money on to the floor of the bus and said, "Here take whatever is left! I've used some of it for my lunch and some tea." But the class was too terrified to pick up any of it!

That evening parents of all the kids in Brother's class heard about the incident. Sister was aghast! "Do teachers really do such things?" she asked. "It is rather unusual" agreed Mama Undir reluctantly. She did not want the kids to think ill of their teachers. But what was she to do? "Perhaps there is a good reason for what happened" suggested Papa Undir. He was not sure either about how to cope with this development. "She could have just asked us if she needed the money! Most kids would have been willing! After all she is our teacher!" declared Brother.

The problem with geography Miss continued and even became worse. Most kids in Brother's

class had become wary of her. In turn, so had she. She was not teaching very much. Classes were becoming children minding centres. The kids started playing games in class. So long as no one left their seats, Miss did not object. Even the lazy students, who enjoyed doing no work, started to get worried.

"She can't even maintain discipline!" complained Brother Undir one day. "You actually want your teacher to keep the class disciplined?" asked Papa Undir in surprise. "Yes!" replied Brother. "Papa, Mama! Don't you know that we do like teachers to be strict in class! Kids don't respect a teacher who does not control anything!" added Sister Undir. "Can no one do anything?" wailed poor Brother.

As their half yearly exams were drawing to a close, Papa and Mama decided that it was time to act. They called up a few parents and found similar stories about the geography teacher. Some of the parents decided to go to the school and take up the matter with the Principal. A date for the Principal's meeting was set. A few kids from Brother's class were also called in. Brother and Chatty were among those selected. There was a heart-to-heart talk. Chatty said, "We find it hard to respect her, Sir! And my parents keep scolding me for talking badly about a teacher." Shyly Brother said, "Please, Sir! We WANT to be taught! We want tests and home-

work! Please tell her to be strict about studies!"

Ultimately that was what impressed the Principal. These were not idle children trying to cover up some mistake by complaining against their teacher. "I'll talk to her," he said.

Quite clearly the talk between Rani Miss and the Principal had been very serious. The next term Brother's class found that they had a new geography teacher. What a relief it was!

Brother felt relieved and rotten at the same time. "She's lost her job. We made up such mean rhymes about her!" he told Sister. Sister Undir heard him and said, "Once you set the ball rolling, everyone has to face the consequences. By the way, what happened to your book?"

"I think I'll have to ask the Principal! Gosh! I feel awkward, but I'll do it!" said Brother. As he could not muster up enough courage to do it alone, he dragged Chatty mouse and together they met the Principal. "You ask!" said Brother nudging Chatty. "No you! It was your idea!" answered Chatty.

"Well?" asked the Principal. "I haven't got all day!"

Brother was forced to say something. "Sir, Sir! It's about my book geography Miss confiscated! We've come to check whether she left it behind."

"Hmm!" replied the Principal. "I did hear something about it. But the answer is no. There was nothing left behind!"

"Oh no! Well, never mind! Thank you, Sir! Sorry to bother you!" said Brother. He grabbed Chatty's hand and ran out. "It must be with her son!" hissed Chatty. "Shut up!" Brother replied.

ANURADHA KHATI





TEACHER 'UNCLE'

I was in fifth standard then. A new teacher was teaching us maths that year. It was his first class with us.

The teacher was teaching us about profit and loss. I did not understand what he was teaching. I stood up and said, "Uncle, can you please explain..." only when the class roared with laughter did I realise my mistake. I was extremely embarrassed.

**Aditi Ravi Shankar, age 11,
Hiranandani Foundation School,
Mumbai.**

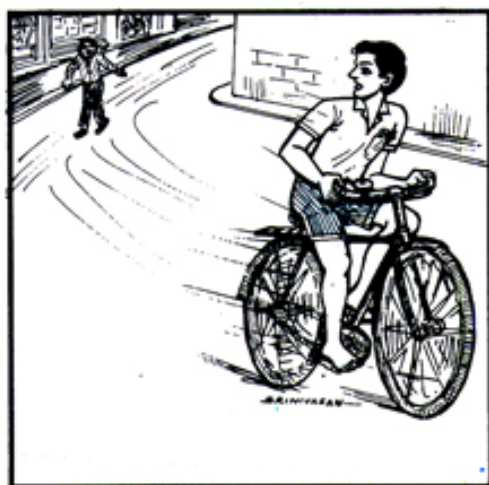
Kind deed

One day I went to the shop to buy tablets for my grandmother. I had Rs. 100 with me. I bought the tablets and raced home. I wanted to watch the India - Australia match being shown on TV. I brushed past a man who was walking down the lane. He called out to me. I did not acknowledge his presence and continued my way. But when the man continued calling out to me, I turned back to see what he wanted.

He had a few notes in his hand. I

had let fall the change in my hurry to reach home. Not only was I happy to get the money back but also pleased that the man had been so kind to me. Had he not called out to me, I may have cut a sorry figure before my parents.

**N. Ajay, VII F,
PSBBSSS, Chennai.**



Fat-free!

My younger sister was six years old then. She was in the habit of looking out for 'FREE' labels on the products we purchased. She would be thrilled when a comb was offered FREE with a pack of talcum powder. Once she saw a label on a famous brand of cornflakes that proclaimed it was '98% FAT-FREE'. She presumed, as usual, that 98% fat was given 'free' along with that brand of cornflakes.

One day, we were discussing our favourite breakfast items. Our cousin,



who was very plump, said that he loved to have cornflakes, and specified the brand-name. To this, my sister promptly responded, "No wonder you are so fat! Because 98% fat comes free with that!"

We all had a hearty laugh.

**Madhukar Subramanian, IX C,
St. Paul School, Rourkela.**

Dear Madhukar, pl. send your house address.

I became a detective

It was my summer holidays and a boring one at that. I went to buy the

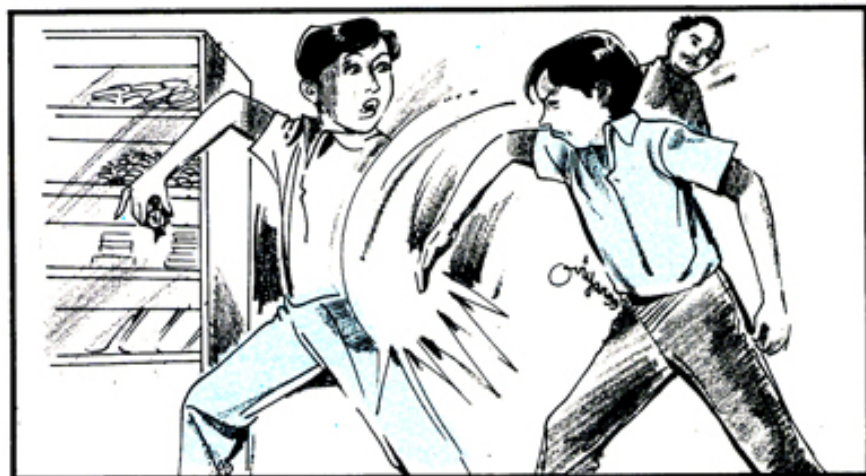
books needed for my next term. I bought the books and decided to refresh myself with a cool drink in the nearby shop.

As I finished my drink I noticed a boy sneak up to the shop and grab a few sweets from the toffee jar. I grabbed his hand and gave him a slap and a piece of my mind. I proudly led the boy to the shop keeper who only turned on me and gave me a sound slap.

I realised to my horror that the boy was the shop keeper's son. I loved reading detective stories and felt I had caught a culprit red-handed only to be sent home shame-faced!

**T. Shankar, age 11,
Belvoir College, Intl.,
Colombo.**

Dear Shankar, Pl. send in your Indian contact address.



EXPERIENCE

Why so light?

It was 5.05 in the evening. As usual the students were waiting for the school bell. 'Trrring' the bell went and all the students rushed out of the class. I too rushed out.

It was a tuesday. We had less number of books to carry. I was surprised I felt very light. To my great



shock I realised I had forgotten a very important thing. It was not a notebook or my water bottle. I had forgotten my school bag!

All my friends had a hearty laugh.

Fatima Iqbal, age 12,

Mary Immaculate GHS, Mumbai.

HOUSE-BREAKER

I was five then. My mother had come to the bus stop to escort me home. As we turned the lane to our house I noticed that the balcony door was open. I told my mother about it. She was certain that she had locked

the door before leaving home.

She wondered if my father had returned home early from office. She rang the door bell. No one opened the door even after continuously pressing the door bell. My mother peeped through the key hole. She found a pair of shoes near the sofa in the hall. But when she pressed the bell again nobody opened the door. She peeped through the key hole again and said to me, "that is not your father's shoes." She picked me up and ran down the stairs, shouting, "help, help."

The thief who heard the commotion, made good his escape. Our neighbours broke open the front door. My mother made a quick search of the house. She found out that the thief had stolen Rs. 300. Even now, when I recall the incident, I cannot help but wonder at my mother's quick thinking that saved the house from being ransacked.

**S. Sowmya, VI C,
Greenfields School,
New Delhi.**



Subscription Form

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Rs. 72/- for 12 issues.

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CHENNAI - 600 097.

What price education?

Our education system needs to be revamped. We hear of scams and rackets in exams and mark sheets. Since students find classroom teaching insufficient they go in for private tuitions.

Teachers go on strike and end up taking classes on sundays to finish the syllabus. We end up losing even that one 'free' day, since we have to attend college from 8 to 5.

Minal K. Shah, age 19, BVB College of Engg., Hubli

before the TV. Perhaps advertisers can promote the importance of books on TV. Is TV not a product of a brain that spent much time on reading?

K. Karthik, Std. X, KV, Trichy.

Strong teams needed

India decided to send a team each to the Commonwealth games cricket and to the Sahara cup contest.

India won the Sahara cup but fared badly at the Commonwealth games. Even in the winning match of the Sahara cup, the winning team's bowling and fielding came in for many adverse comments.

Instead of dividing the best talent available between the Sahara cup contest and the Commonwealth games, India should have assembled a second team to be sent to the Commonwealth games. Then freshers would have played with enthusiasm and perhaps



TV vs. reading

Just two decades ago reading was a popular pastime. Today we only watch TV. Once children spent 20 hours a week reading books. Today we spend 20 hours a week

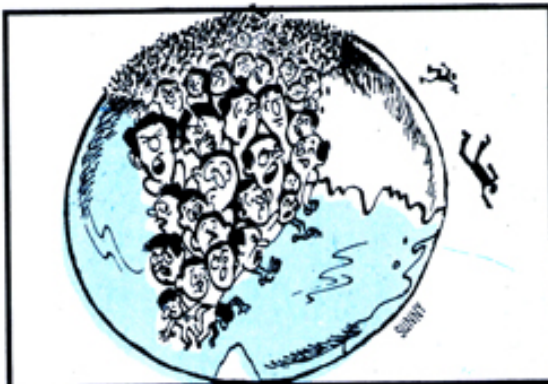


we would have won in the Commonwealth games also. This way we could have helped to develop enterprising cricketers. They would have then taken over the mainstream competitive cricket. We have now ended up with only one team instead of developing a strong second team.

Girish V. Sahani,
Std. VIII,
Sri Shajahanand
Primary School,
Ahmedabad.

Illiteracy and superstitions have contributed to increase in population. Advanced countries have been able to control their birth rates.

If China can become a developed country by educating its masses why can't



Population - India's mishap

Our population increases at approximately 2.15% every year. The birth rate is high and the death rate is low. Medical advances have ensured longevity.

India do the same?

R. Harigopal, Std. X B,
Takshila PS, Secunderabad.

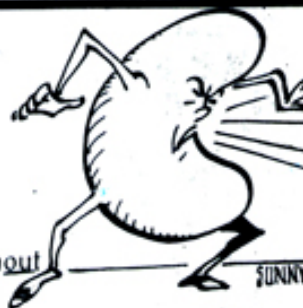
Frank : Four sailors fell in the sea but only one of them got his hair wet.

Jhonny : How was that?

Frank : Three of them were bald.



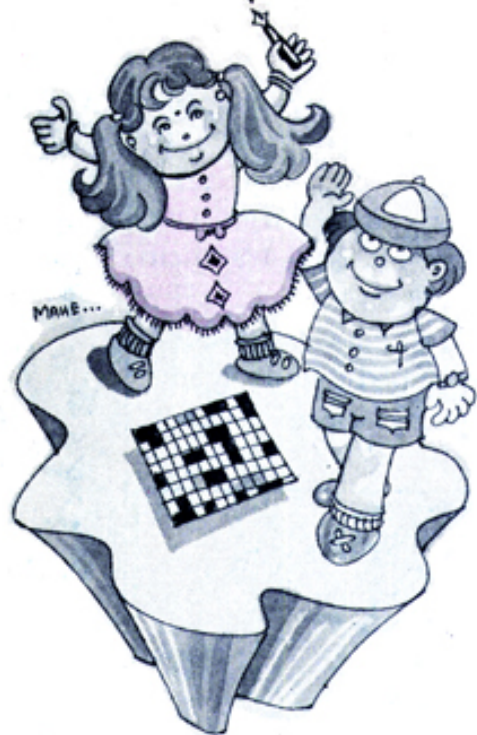
*What nuts sound like a sneeze?
A Cashoo!*



What turns without moving!
Milk — when it turns sour.

T. Shilpa-shree,
age 13,
Girls SSS,
Port Blair.





Puzzle PAGES

$$27+343+ 0 = 370$$

$$27+ 343+ 1 = 371$$

$$64 + 0 + 343 = 407$$

V. Indirajeet, Std VIII,
IESS EMS,Dadar, Mumbai

FUN MATHS

You can rearrange these numbers and yet get the same answer!

$$14^2 + 87^2 =$$

$$15^2 + 75^2 =$$

$$17^2 + 84^2 =$$

$$26^2 + 97^2 =$$

$$27^2 + 96^2 =$$

CAPITAL ME

Find the capitals of the following states. Rearrange the encircled words to get another city's name.

1) Uttar Pradesh ○ ----- ○

2) Punjab ----- ○ ----- ○

3)Tamil Nadu ----- ○ ----- ○

4) Karnataka ----- ○ ----- ○

India's capital -----

K.C.'Radhika, Std VIII,
Jaycees English Medium School,
Karkala

Make cubes of the numbers given on the left side and compare with the answers on the right. You'll be in for a surprise!

$$1+125+27 = 153$$

Can you guess? Vegetable Riddles!

1. I start with letter C. I am sweet to taste. I am rich in Vitamin A. Who am I?

2. I am green in colour and start with letter P. Children enjoy eating me raw. Who am I?

3. I am full of eyes and they make delicious snacks from me. I start with letter P. Who am I?

4. I am juicy and red in col-

our. I am plump and pretty. I rhyme with 'moto'. Who am I?

5. I am full of leaves and start with the letter C and end with E. I'm quite fat. Who am I?

6. I am very special of all since I am the fattest of all. Some of you children do hate me! Who am I?

B. Shubha,
aged 15, Bangalore

ANIMAL ANAGRAMS

The anagrams of these words are the names of animals. What are the animals? The clues will help you.



1. OODD - A flightless bird.
2. TOAHMMM - A large African mammal - An elephant
3. ALKOA - An arboreal marsupial
4. CMLEA - A desert beast of burden
5. REED - The meat is called version.

Answer page 65

6. LOW - A night bird
7. BRAZE - A striped mammal
8. PAWS - A striped insect with a sting
9. HEAR - It looks like a rabbit.
10. TAR - A small and destructive rodent

B. Divya, Std VIII, Vijaya HS,
Bangalore

CURRENCIES OF THE WORLD

The answers may be horizontal, diagonal or vertical. Use the clues.

C	B	L	D	D	Y	U	A	N	P
A	E	H	K	W	A	C	H	A	T
I	B	D	C	S	W	O	R	U	R
N	Q	K	I	F	V	H	A	E	Q
A	F	R	A	T	A	Y	K	T	B
I	M	A	A	A	Y	X	D	A	V
R	R	N	T	K	G	L	H	O	N
A	U	D	K	A	S	T	J	K	Y
A	G	U	I	L	D	E	R	X	E
Z	W	H	A	I	P	U	R	J	C

- Clues: (Currency of)
- Bangladesh
 - China
 - Ghana
 - Indonesia
 - Myanmar
 - Netherland
 - Nigeria

Archana Sridhar, aged 12,
K.V. (CLRI),
Chennai

Dear Archana, Pl. send your house address.

Muscles make 3/7th of Bhavana's total weight. Her life depends on some muscles eg. the muscles of the heart.

Muscles carry out the orders of the nerve cells. They are the servants of nerve cells.

Muscles vary in shape according to the work they do. Some are thin flat sheets of flesh.

Others are long and narrow. Some muscles are strong like ropes. They are called tendons. These

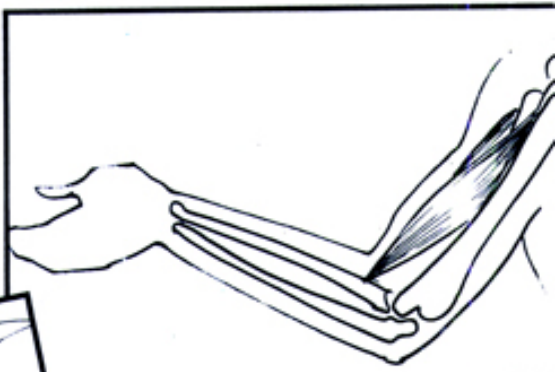
muscle with two starting points. They begin as tendons and expand into flesh and then join the elbow bones as tendons.

When Bhavana's bicep muscles contract, its fleshy part shortens and swells. When her muscles expand the biceps are at rest. All muscles are richly supplied with blood. A muscle derives its red colour from blood. The muscles also have a red colouring matter which is peculiar to muscles and not found in blood. Blood supplies to muscles the power

MUSCLES

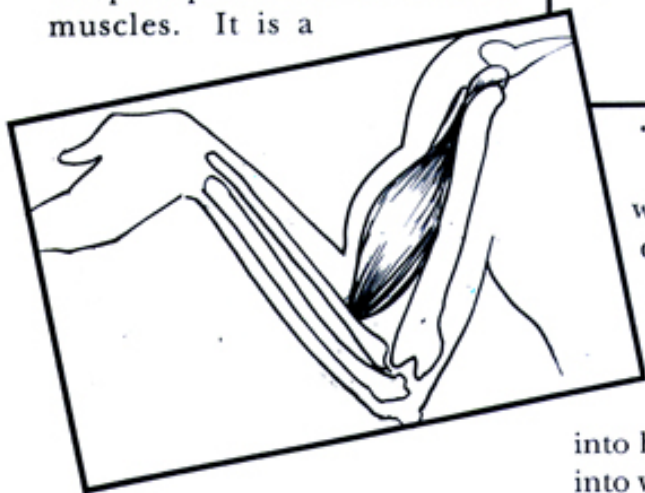
tendons can be felt on the face of the wrist or beneath the knees. They are also called sinews.

A tendon or sinew is part of a muscle. The tendons are white in colour but muscles are reddish. The biceps explains well the role of muscles. It is a



* Muscles of biceps develop very easily if they are exercised

which is exhibited by muscles during action.



A muscle is a living machine. It turns some of the energy supplied to it into heat. Not all energy is turned into work. The more the work, the

less is the heat released and the muscles are considered to be in good condition.

The red fleshy part of a muscle contains millions of living cells. These cells grow into the form of narrow fibres or threads. The biceps are called muscles of the skeleton.

There are two kinds of muscles. Voluntary and involuntary muscles. Voluntary muscles are striped involuntary muscles are not striped.

Exercise helps muscles grow. By exercising, those muscle cells that had not developed so far, begin to develop. They will grow bigger upto a certain level. After a certain level of growth the muscle cells will not grow no matter how much Bhavana may exercise her body.

Women are less muscular than men. But, women are stronger and can withstand more loss of blood, greater exposure and longer periods of starvation. Women also live longer and can withstand greater quantity of poison than man.

Every muscle in Bhavana's body is connected at least to one nerve that runs through the muscle. When we hurt our elbow and a shock runs through the elbow to the



* Regular exercise helps to keep muscles healthy

finger, it is the nerve that is transmitting the pain through the muscles. If a nerve is cut either by accident or due to poisoning then the nerve fibre becomes paralysed and disfunctional.

There are two kinds of nerves - sensory and motor nerves. Sensory nerves carry the signals to the brain and the motor nerve runs down the body. When the motor nerve is paralysed, the muscle begins to grow soft, flabby and small. It then begins to waste away.

A muscle removed from the body can be kept fresh by placing it in a dish containing salt water. When force is exerted by the muscles, the bones act as levers. The bone acts as the frame on which the muscles develop. Man uses all the muscles of the spine when he is sitting or standing.



* Notice how the thigh muscles are stretched

Muscles that Bhavana uses to bend her limbs are called flexors

and those to stretch the limbs again are called extensors. There are about 500 separate muscles in a human body.

The tailor muscle is the broadest of the back muscles. It is a fan-shaped sheet of muscle that spreads upwards and outwards from the hip bone to the head. It helps to draw the arm downwards, backwards and inwards.

FLY FACTS

A female fly lays four batches of eggs a year. Each batch contains 100 to 200 eggs. These eggs are deposited on rotting vegetables, organic manure, food or on offal. The eggs are very small and sticky. They are elongated and hatch within 2-4 days. The larvae are cream coloured. They taper to one end. They are very active. The larvae grows into a fly in five days.

**K. Ankita, Std. IV,
Amar Sainik Primary School,
Amaravati Nagar, Udumalaipet.**



BATS CAN'T SURVIVE DEAFNESS

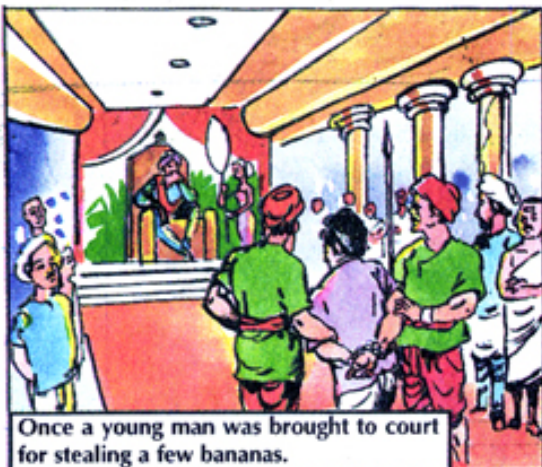
About 2,000 varieties of bats have been recorded. Bats are found everywhere except the poles. There are fossil remains of bats dating back to about 60 million years. Deafness leaves bats comparatively helpless. The fishing bat found in Central America can detect fish by listening to the echoes from the ripples they make on the water surface.

**Arundhati Balachandran,
age 15,
St. John's English School,
Chennai.**

MEANINGFUL TEARS

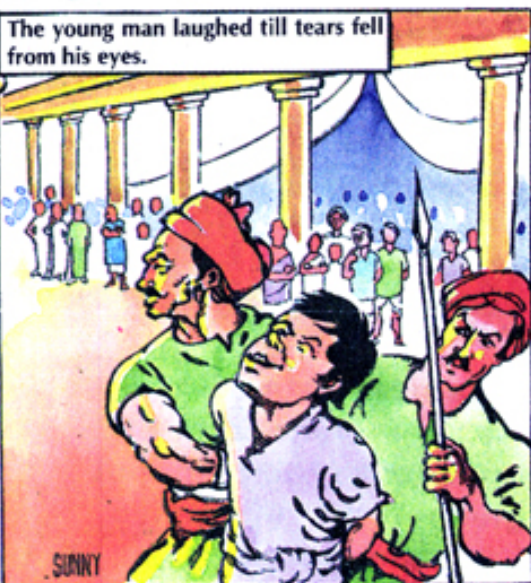
Retold : KOLAR KRISHNA IYER

Illustration : SUNNY



Once a young man was brought to court for stealing a few bananas.

The young man laughed till tears fell from his eyes.



As he left the court he wept bitterly. The king was puzzled.





FUN WITH ALPHABETS

The first letter of the town/person/country etc. begins with the alphabet given in the left. Solve the puzzle.

- A: The Prime Minister of Britain from 1945-51.
 B: The place where Winston Churchill was born.
 C: What C is a north African pirate?
 D: It means to cheat, trick or mislead.
 E: A west country Cathedral town.
 F: A person's special talent.
 G: A word closely related to ecology.
 H: An atomic bomb was dropped on this city in 1945.

- I: A south-west Asian republic on the Mediterranean.
 J: It refers to youth.
 K: He is an Asian prince or chief.
 L: A smooth ground covered with grass.
 M: A board game which means sole power or privilege.
 N: It means to furnish with food.
 O: What 'O' would you appeal to if in trouble?
 P: He created Peter Rabbit.
 Q: He sang Bohemian Rhapsody.
 R: He is a Jewish priest.
 S: It is an english egg dish meaning 'blown' in French.
 T: It is a small tower.
 U: It is referred to by the adjective avuncular.
 V: It is an Italian word for wine.
 W: It is slang for crazy or unusual.
 X: A copier machine?
 Y: This animal is found in cold countries.
 Z: Oh, I know that striped animal!

**S. Poorni, age 14,
Salem.**

Attlee, Blenheim, Corsair,
 Deceive, Exeter, Forte, Green,
 Hiroshima, Israel, Juvenile,
 Khan, Lawn, Monopoly, Nour-
 ish, Ombudsman, Potter,
 Queen, Rabbi, Souffle, Turret,
 Uncle, Vino, Wacky, Xerox,
 Yak, Zebra.

Answers

A RIDICULOUS ACT

Rajan was walking on the road. His home was just a few yards away. Just as he was about to cross the road, he noticed a truck emerge from a bylane at great speed. Suddenly Rajan was pushed to the edge of the road. He gathered his wits about him and looked at the boy who had pushed him. That boy now lay in a pool of blood.

In a state of shock and fear Rajan quickly walked away from the place. The boy's cries for help didn't have any effect on Rajan.

Balu and his sister, Meera were returning home from the market. They saw a boy lying in a pool of blood. The two children leaned closer to take a better look. It was Ramu, the boy who sold newspapers at the cross-road near their house. He was an orphan. Often Ramu played with Balu and Meera.

Balu ran to the nearby PCO booth and called for an ambulance. Meera fetched a glass of water from a roadside shop for Ramu.

Soon Ramu was taken to a hospital. Balu rang up his father and told him that Meera and he had been held up because of an accident.

Balu's father rushed to the hospital. To his shock, Balu's father, Rajan

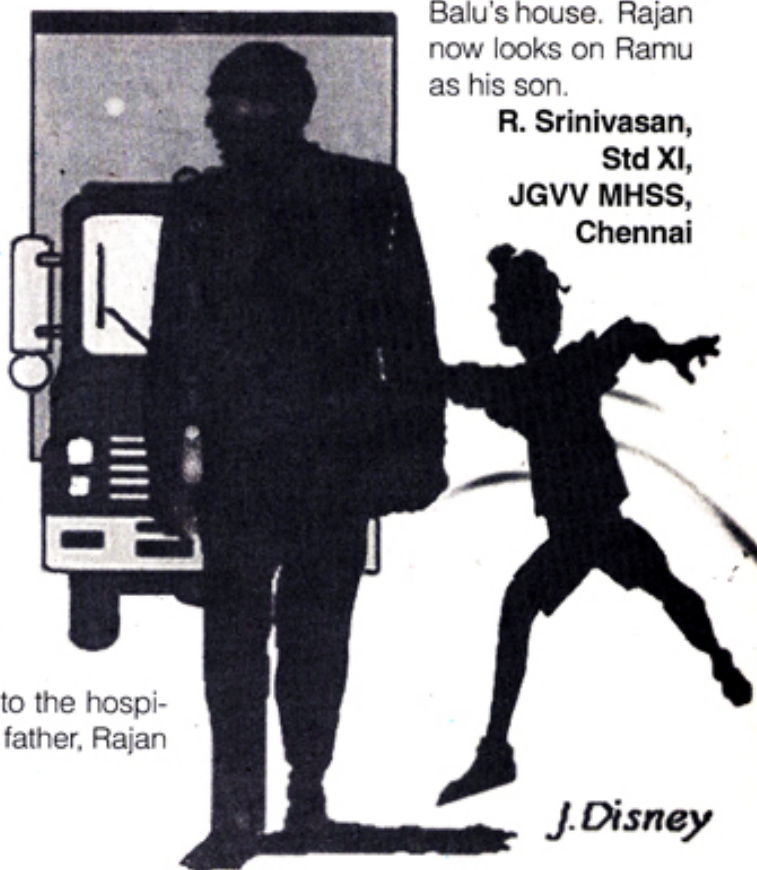
realised that the boy who lay in the hospital bed was none other than the boy who had pushed him aside on the road.

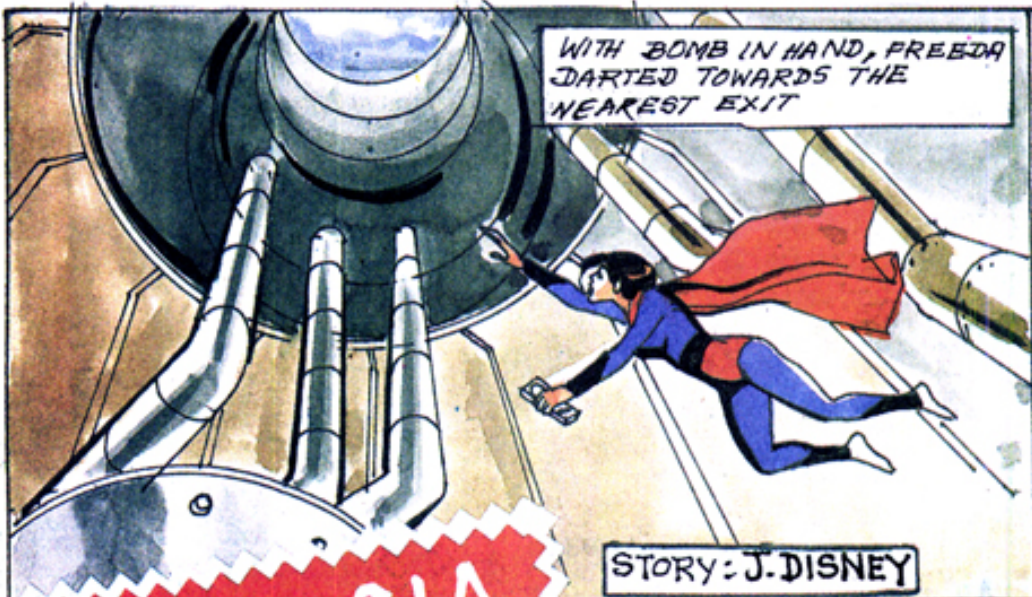
Rajan was ashamed that he hadn't helped the boy. He met the doctor and asked him to take special care of the boy.

When Ramu recovered consciousness Rajan apologised to Ramu. But Ramu only said, "It's ok sir. I knew you were Balu's father. I called out to you about the truck but you were lost in thought. So, I had to push you away."

After his recovery Ramu stayed in Balu's house. Rajan now looks on Ramu as his son.

R. Srinivasan,
Std XI,
JGVV MHSS,
Chennai



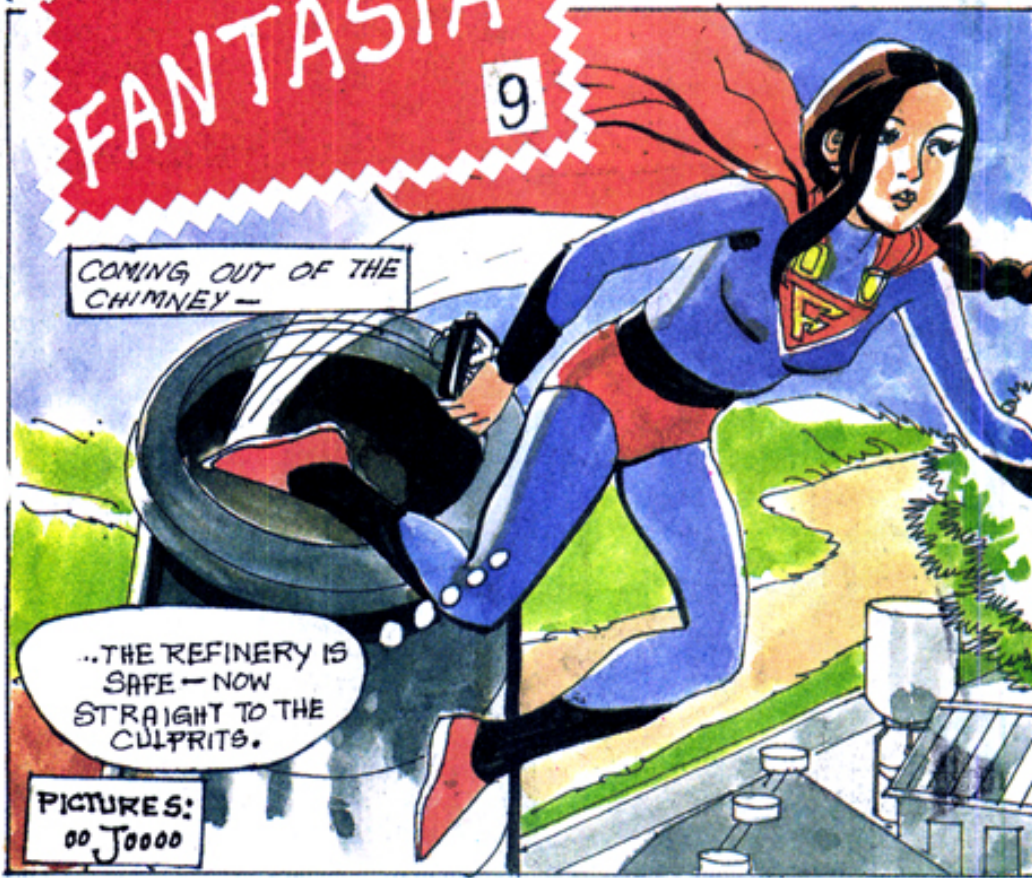


WITH BOMB IN HAND, FREDDA
DARTED TOWARDS THE
NEAREST EXIT

STORY: J. DISNEY

FANTASIA

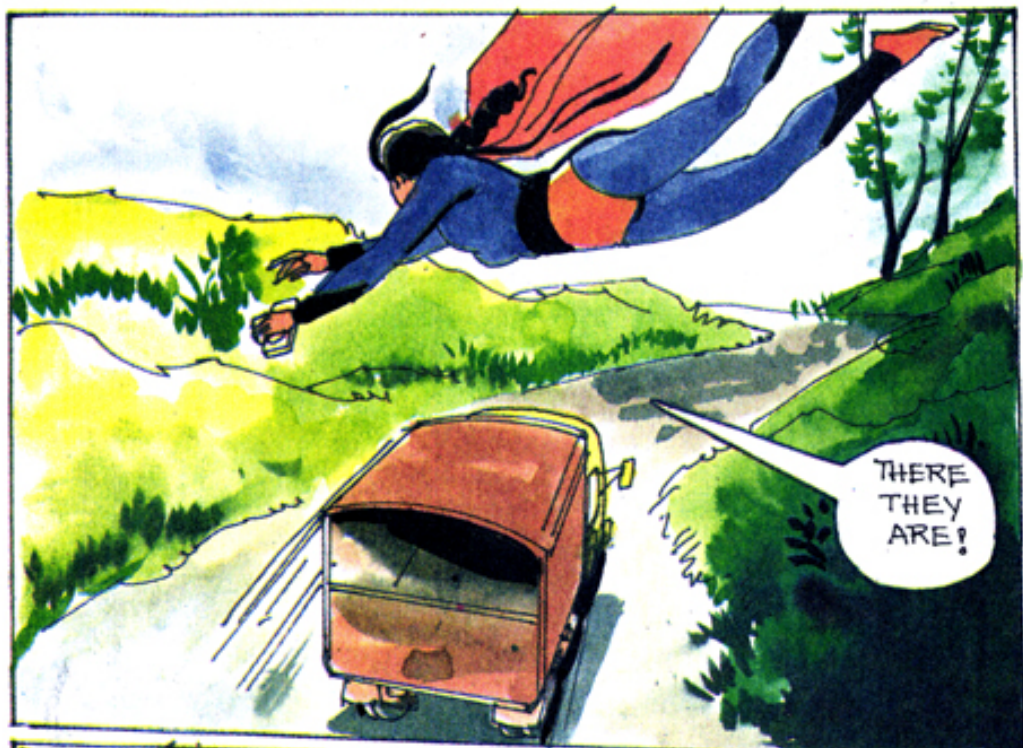
9



COMING OUT OF THE
CHIMNEY —

...THE REFINERY IS
SAFE — NOW
STRAIGHT TO THE
CULPRITS.

PICTURES:
00 J0000





GRANDMA WORM

I have been participating in competitions held by magazines. I also send in beautiful pictures. Yet, I never get even one prize. How can I win a prize?

**Pradyumna Javalekar, age 12,
Hyderabad**

Dear Pradyumna,

Winning prizes is not the ultimate goal. It is the spirit of participation which counts. Competitions test your

I SEND BEAUTIFUL
PICTURES ↑
TOO!



skill. True. But competitions by themselves are not a scale by which you can measure your talent.

I am unable to byheart all answers. What should I do to get first rank in class? I am unable to concentrate. I meditate but to no avail. I come home at one o'clock. When should I watch TV and when should I play?

B.R. Sowbaranica, Chennai

Dear Sowbaranica,

You haven't mentioned your age. Remember as you go into class VII or



I am unable to
by heart...

VIII or IX you cannot learn answers 'by rote'. Instead try to understand the subject.

When you understand your lessons well, you will score good marks. Work out formulae and math problems over and over again. Remember, by practice you will eliminate the usual careless mistakes.

Come exams I get tense. So much so, that I forget answers. My feet and palm become sweaty and cold.



I do score about 80 to 90%. But how can I cope with exam fears?

**P. Sandeep Prabhu, age 16,
MGM College, Udupi**

Dear Sandeep,

☐ Relax. Talk to your parents. Remember they too went through exams before becoming adults. Keep your mind off the exams atleast an hour or two before your exams. Chat with your friends and ask your parents to cool you down with jokes and anecdotes if you can't relax otherwise.

Remember tension begets only worry, forgetfulness and poor performance.

☐ I know people become poets and writers by putting in a lot of effort. I too write poems and short stories. I am shy and don't want to reveal my name, school or house address. How can I send in my contribution?

Maria Johnson, Trivandrum

Dear Maria,

☐ You can use a pen name but you will have to reveal your real name and address atleast to the editor.

GOKULAM March '99

None of your contributions will be considered if your name and address are not given. If you want to make something of yourself you must first fight off shyness. Try sending your contributions to a local daily with a children's column.



If your article is published you will notice your shyness will vanish.

☐ Everybody in my class calls me a 'monkey' because I am very dark. I try to ignore these comments but it rankles.

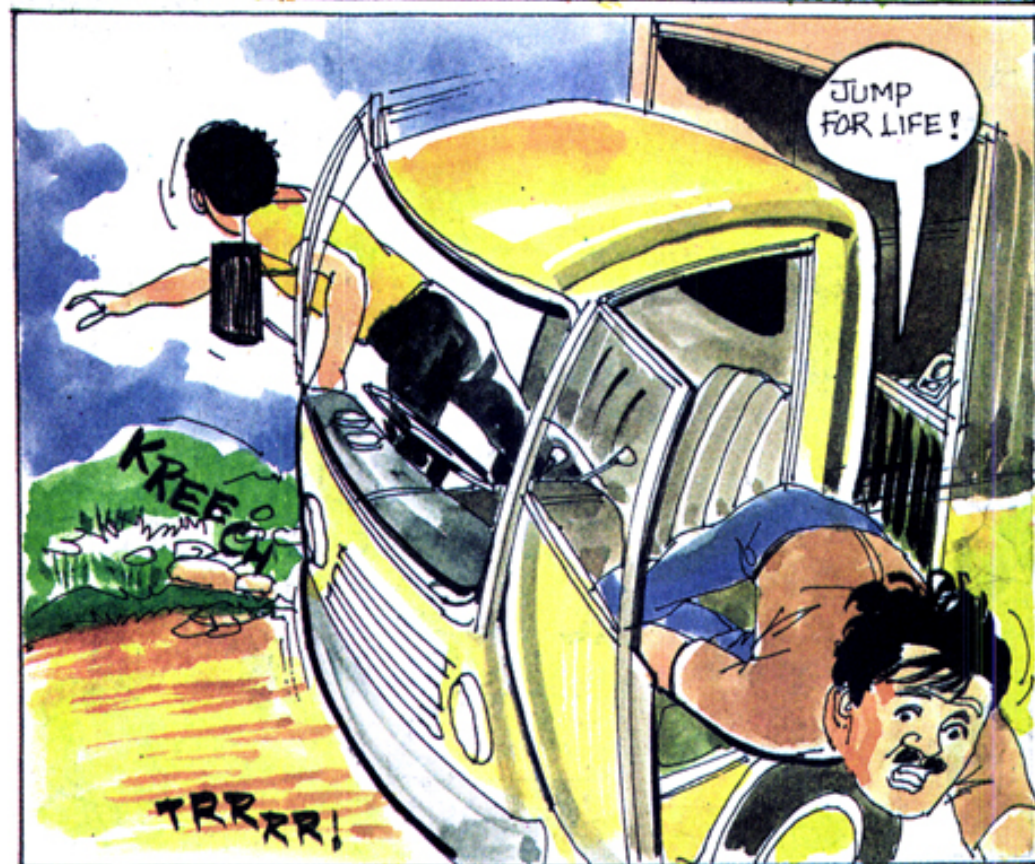
**R. Hareesh Krishnan, Std. V,
PSBB, Chennai**

Dear Hareesh,

☐ Put your efforts into making something out of yourself. Nicknames won't bother you when you keep yourself busy. Try to cultivate a hobby like gardening, stamp collection etc. Once you achieve something people will respect you.

Love,
Grandma worm



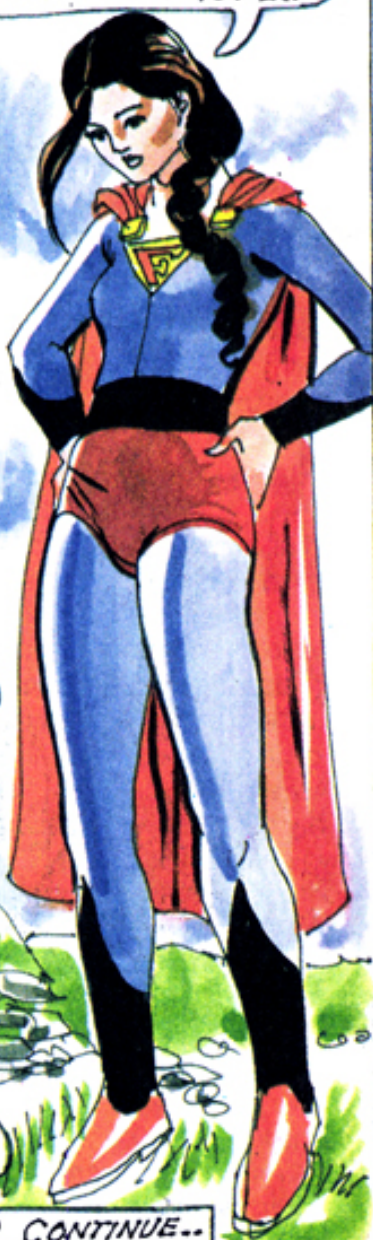


THE BOMB
GOES OFF--

BOOM!



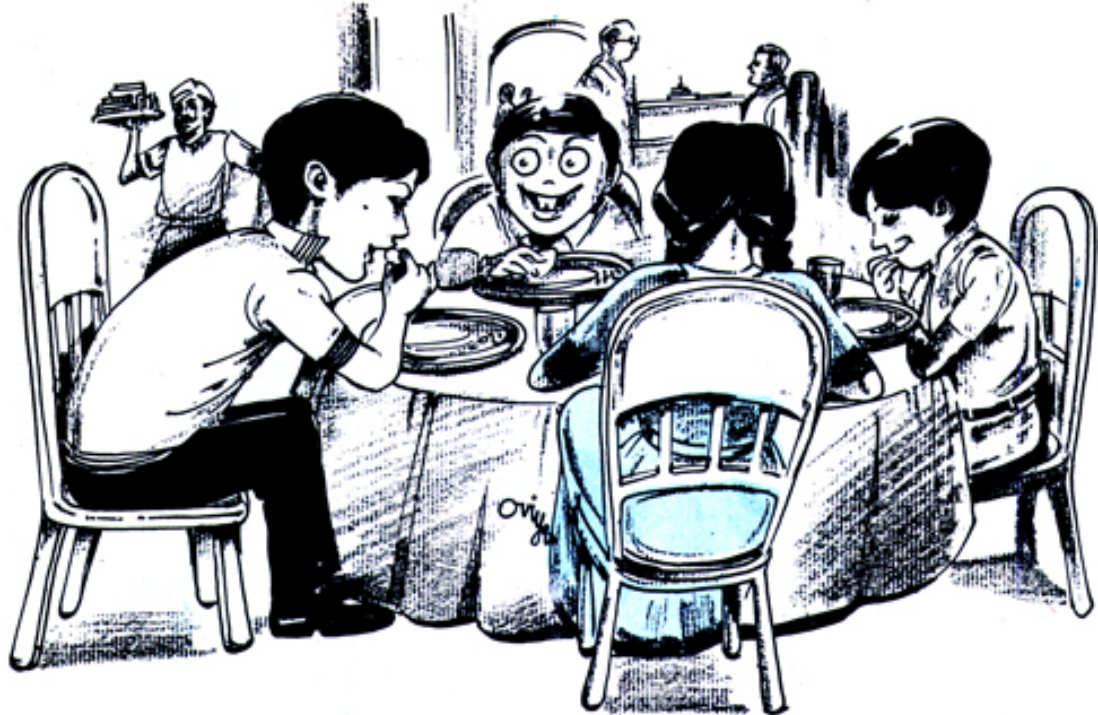
WHAT SORT OF NASTY
PEOPLE ARE YOU? DO YOU
KNOW YOU COULD HAVE
KILLED THOUSANDS OF
PEOPLE ON THE FOOT OF THE
HILL THE OTHER SIDE..



WHO, ON EARTH,
ARE YOU?

C'MON SHOOT
THIS MONSTER DOWN!

TO CONTINUE..



We were spending our summer holidays with our grandparents. My grandparents have lived all their life in Kukunoor, a tiny village that was steeped in superstition.

The village used lanterns because they believed lanterns were safer and more dependable than electricity! People locked themselves immediately after dusk because they feared evil spirits were on prowl.

My cousins and I took a bus to the town early one afternoon assuring our elders that we would be back before dusk. We enjoyed ourselves in the town, browsing through bookstores and cassette shops and enjoying a snack from roadside vendors. It was not until Vicky pointed out that it was four in the evening that we panicked.

The last bus to our village left at four thirty. We dug into our masala dosas at the Udupi restaurant with renewed vigour. We finished the dosas in a record time and ran to the bus stop. To our dismay we saw the bus roaring away into

A Village Called **KUKUNOOR**

the horizon.

We learnt soon that the next bus was only in the morning at six. We did not have enough money with us to rent a room at a hotel in the town. Besides, we knew the elders would be very worried.

Soon the sun set and it began to grow dark. The way to Kukunoor passed through dense woods. The road was not very good but we trudged on. We were surrounded by the noise of the jungle, which scared the daylights out of us. The chirping of the crickets, the hooting of an owl all conspired to terrify us. We walked on hungry, tired, dirty and very, very scared. We were soon deep in the woods and nowhere near home.

It was a moonless night. The kind of night used in horror stories where the shadows of the dark only terrify an already frightened mind. It felt as if there were eyes all around us staring at us in the dark, with evil intent. It was pitch dark. We could hardly see a few feet in front of us. Something flew right into my face. I screamed out of fear but it was only a bat. I started crying but Vicky told us not to worry, as we would soon reach home. We knew he was scared and worried like us.

We spotted a tiny shed a few feet away. It was a woodcutter's shed. It had only a pack of matches on a windowsill and some scattered wood. We lit up some of the wood and used them as torches. We were so exhausted that walking became a chore. It was almost midnight when we spotted some lights ahead. We thought it must be somebody's house, but to our horror we saw the lights floating towards us. My grandma had told me stories of evil spirits dancing in the woods on moonless nights carrying torches.

We stood terrified for a minute and then ran for



The following particulars regarding the ownership of 'GOKULAM' the English Monthly newspaper, are published, as called for by rule 8 of the Registration of Newspapers (Central) Rules 1956.

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I hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

1.3.1999

K. Rajendran
Publisher

our lives. We couldn't seem to shake off the spirits though we were running as fast as we could. The lights were coming closer. My lungs were close to bursting when I heard somebody call out my name. I was close to hysteria now. Suddenly I heard even my cousins also being called. We stopped and turned around to see that it was my dad and two of my uncles. They were running after us. We burst into tears in sheer relief and ran into their arms. They had waited for us to return home by the last bus. When we did not reach home, they had decided to search us out.

My mother was puffy faced when I saw her. She had been crying thinking I was lost forever!

**S. Sandhya,
Mumbai**

MULLAH'S ANSWERS

Retold by
S. Fathima,
age 14, Karamadai.

Illustration :
P. Mahesh

Once the king was planning to visit Mullah's village.



The village officer decided that Mullah was the right man for the job.

Mullah approached the village officer.

Mullah, you are in the welcoming committee to receive the king.

But I have no experience at all.

Teach me a few words so that I can talk to the Sultan fluently.

The king will ask you your age. You should reply '30 years'.

The king may ask you 'How many years did you study the religious books?'

You should say '10 years'.

The king will ask, 'Between the village security officer and the income tax officer who functions better?'

You should say 'both'.

30 years, 10 years, both... 30 years, 10 years, both... 30 years, 10 years...

Mullah studied the answers to the questions by heart.

He forgot to remember the questions. The Sultan arrived at the village.

Welcome to our village, Sultan.

The village is beautiful Mullah.

A feast was organised for the king.

How hospitable your village people are.

Yes, my lord!

The king asked Mullah to accompany him on a walk.

How many years have you studied the religious books?

30 years.

The king was very impressed.

How old are you?

10 years.

The king looked confused and angry.

Either you must be a fool or I must be a fool.

Both my lord.

The king's soldiers arrested Mullah for insulting the king.

But what did I say?

THE END

Ram and Sheb were neighbours in a village. Once Sheb decided to visit a few relatives in the town. He told Ram of his plan and handed to him a bag of silver coins. "Here keep this safely till I return."

Ram was very greedy. Though he accepted the bag he had no intention of returning the bag to Sheb.

After a few months Sheb returned from his trip. He approached Ram and asked him to return his bag. But Ram said, "What silver coins? The rats ate up the coins that I had left in the store room. How can I return them to you?"

Sheb was now angry. He wondered what he should do. He approached the judge who lived in the village. The judge chalked out a nice plan for Sheb to get back his coins.

Sheb accordingly approached Ram. He asked Ram to send his son with him since Sheb's family was planning to visit the nearby lake for a picnic.

Ram was only very pleased to send his boy.

That evening when Ram arrived to pick up his boy from Sheb's house, Sheb said, "Oh, I am truly sorry. Your boy was bathing in the lake with my children when suddenly your boy turned into water and disappeared in the lake."

Ram was enraged. "Are you taking me for a fool? A human being cannot turn into water."

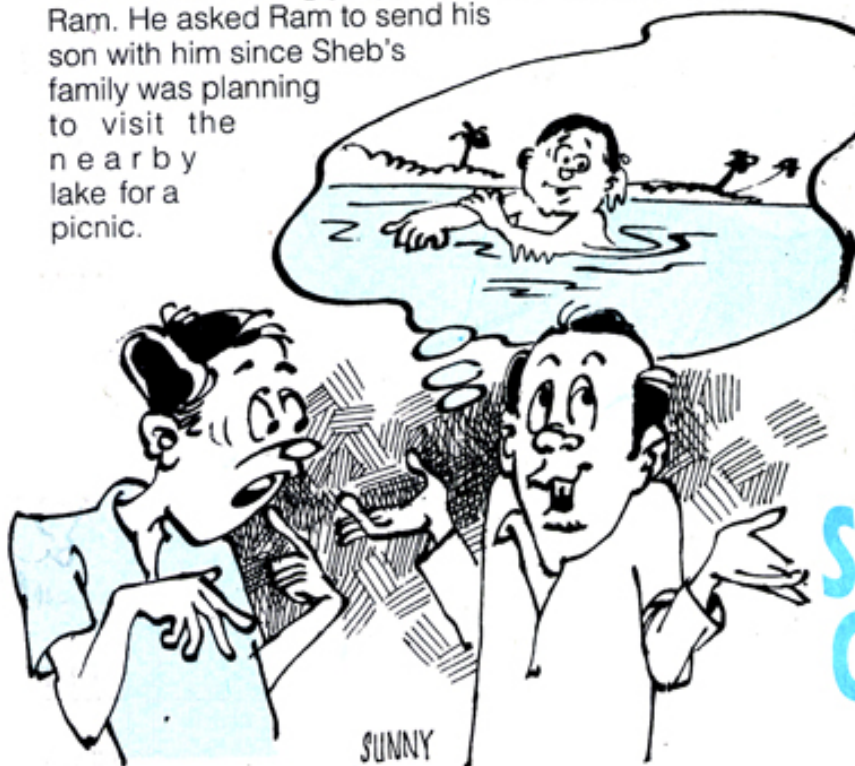
"Oh, but if rats can eat silver coins can a human being not turn into water?" Sheb asked in turn.

Ram apologised for his behaviour. He returned home. He picked up the bag of silver coins that Sheb had given to him and returned to Sheb's house.

"Pardon me, Sheb. Here are your coins. Please return my son."

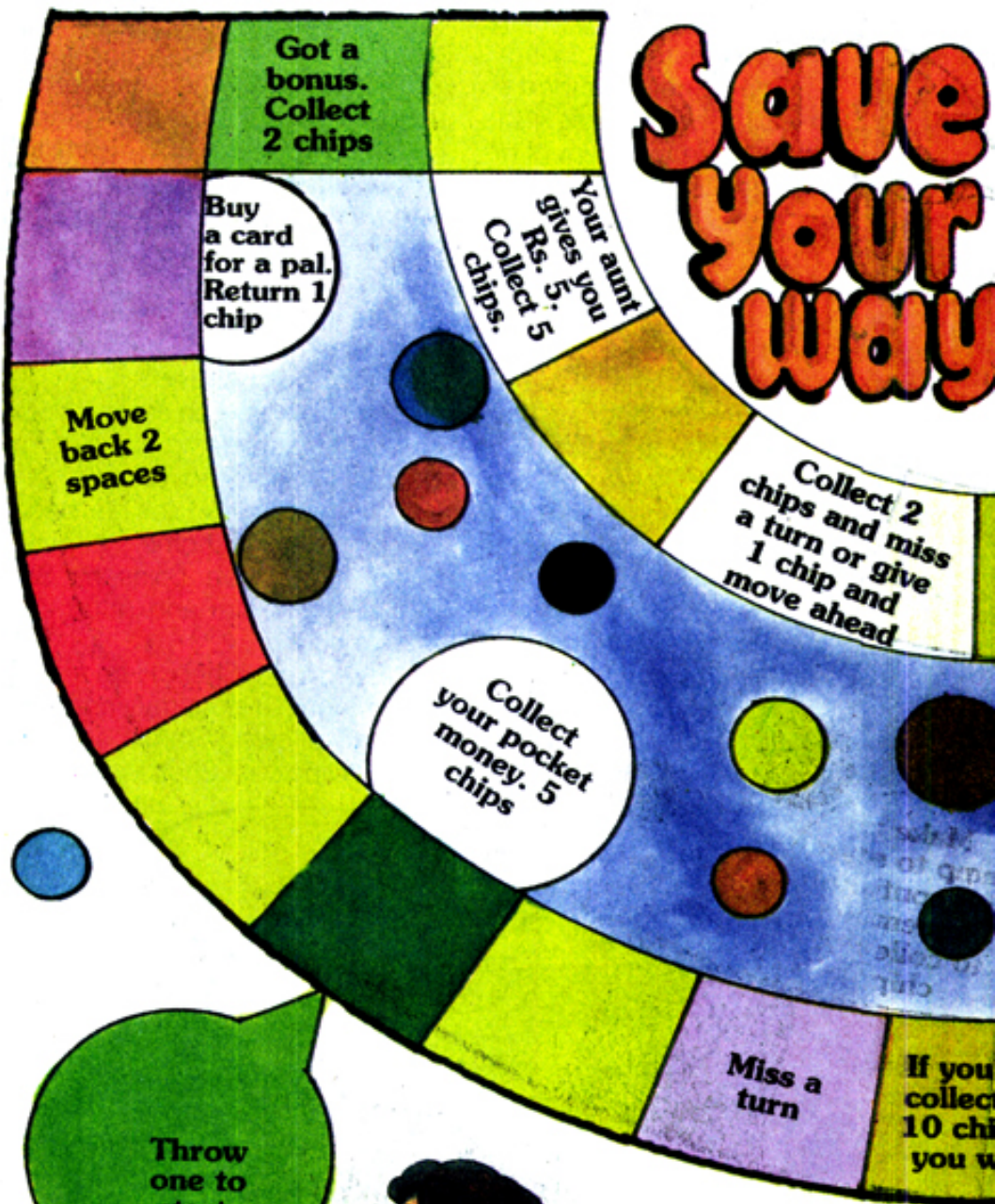
Sheb allowed Ram's son, who was playing with Sheb's children in the backyard, to return home with Ram.

**S.Rajambal,
VI A,
Sitalakshmi
GHSS,
Madurai.**



THE SILVER COINS

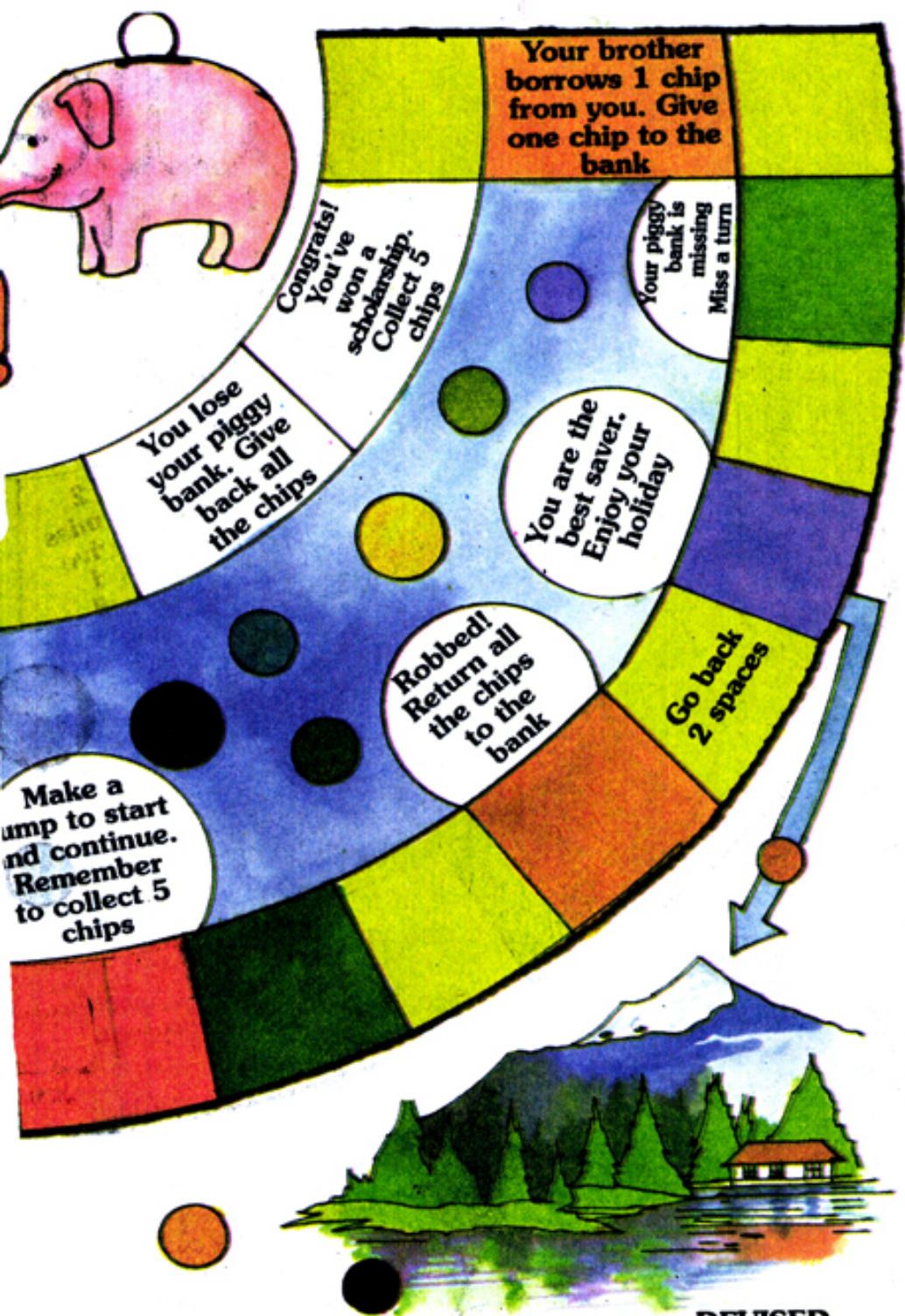
Save your way



Rules:

- 2 to 4 players can play
- You need a banker, a few chips made out of cardboard
- This is a continuous game till you win
- Everytime you cross 'Start' collect 5 chips





* So roll your dice and move your counter

DEvised
BY
LALITHA



THE ECHO

Once there lived a little boy named Jim. Little Jim as yet did not know what an echo was. One day when he was in the field he began to call out: "Oh, Oh!" Immediately from the near by woods a voice repeated: "Oh, Oh!" Hearing this little Jim asked in surprise: "Who are you?" And the voice said: "Who are you?" He cried out again: "You are an egghead!" "Egghead!" came the voice from the woods. Jim

became annoyed and angry.

His words to the unknown voice became more offensive, but every word came back to him as faithfully as he produced it. So he decided to enter the woods and find the person to get even with him. He never succeeded in finding anyone. At last he returned home. He told his mother that a bad boy, hidden in the woods, had insulted him.

His mother smiled and said: "This time you have accused yourself, because all you heard was an echo of your own voice. If you had used nice words, the same would have come back to you. Such things do happen in life. The conduct of others towards us is usually only the echo of our conduct towards them. If we are courteous they will be courteous with us. But if we are rude, rough, and slipshod, we can expect nothing better."

R. Princy, age 11, R.S.K, J.S., Trichy

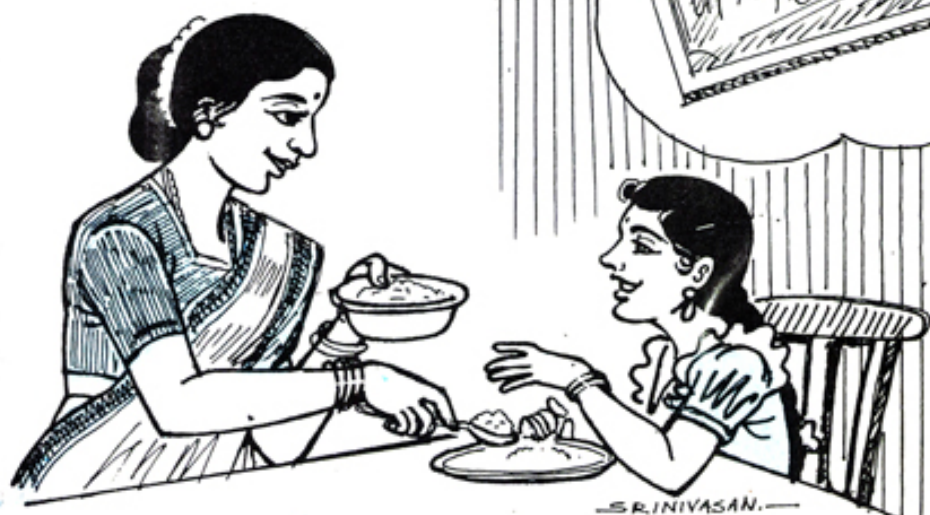
Dear Princy, pl send your house address.

MY MOTHER

*I love my mother
I don't want to be a bother.
In the chilly weather
Her hug is a hot shower!
My mother is very charming,
She makes wooden carvings.
And I engrave on it 'mummy'
Along with 'darling'.*

*My mother is very nice,
She makes pudding of rice
And never tolerates lies,
She is my best prize.*

**Pallavi Prasad, age 13,
Nightingale's Eng. School,
Bangalore**

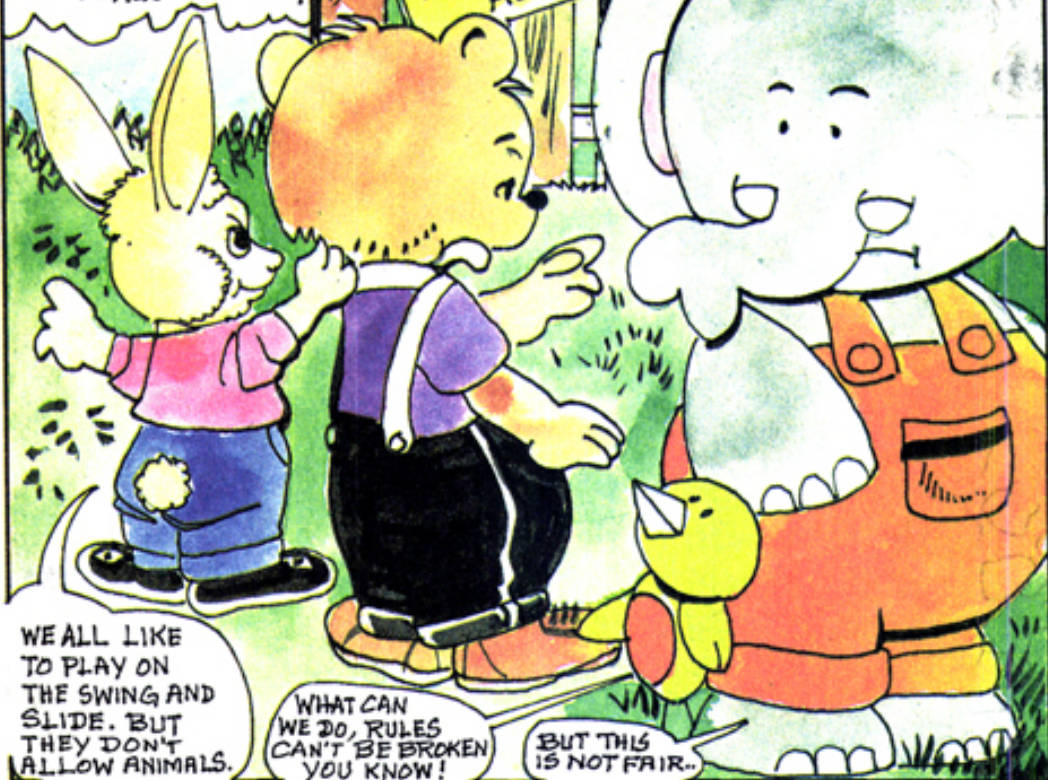


ANIMALS ONLY!

STORY AND
PICTURES: J. DISNEY

WONDER
PARK

ANIMALS NOT
ALLOWED



WE ALL LIKE
TO PLAY ON
THE SWING AND
SLIDE. BUT
THEY DON'T
ALLOW ANIMALS.

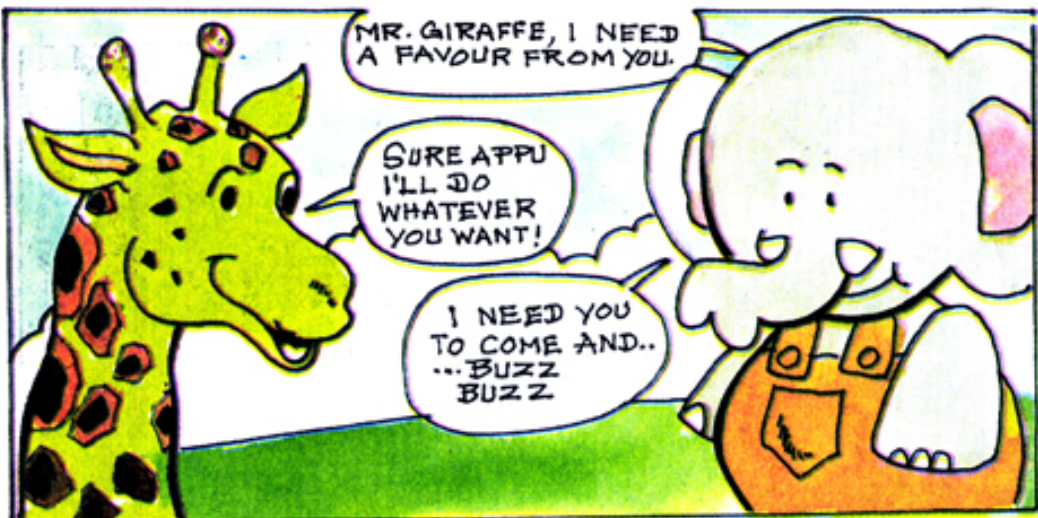
WHAT CAN
WE DO, RULES
CAN'T BE BROKEN
YOU KNOW!

BUT THIS
IS NOT FAIR...

KUKU,
I HAVE
AN IDEA.

WHAT?

KUKU, I'LL
GO FIRST
AND MAKE
ARRANGEMENTS
YOU ARRIVE
LATER
WITH THE
LITTLE ONES...



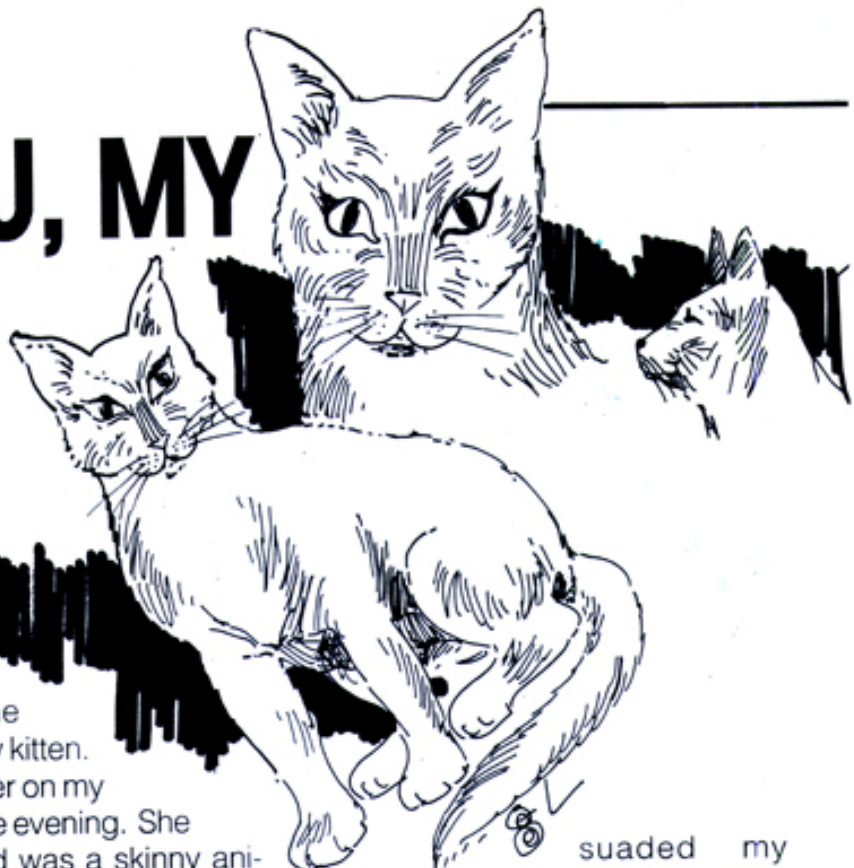
MINU, MY CAT

PET PALS

Minu came as a frisky kitten. I found her on my doorstep late one evening. She lay huddled and was a skinny animal. When I brought her into the house there was no one to welcome her. Cats don't make good pets, everyone in the house told me.

I was stubborn. Finally I per-

suaded my mother to spare her a bowl of milk. My mother said, "Ok, but get that straggly thing out of the house the first thing tomorrow morning."



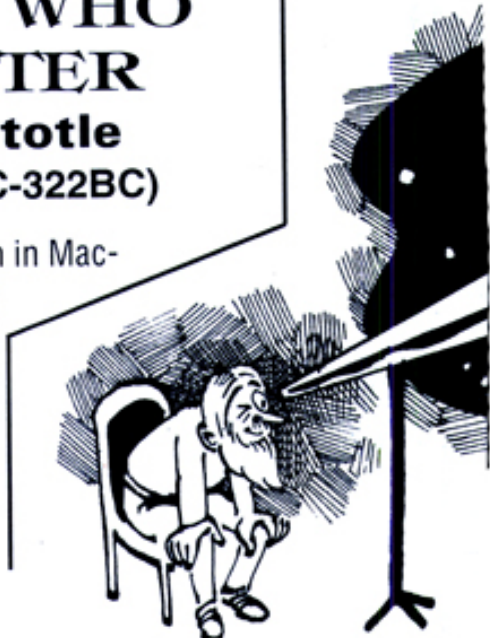
MEN WHO MATTER

Aristotle

(384 BC-322BC)

He was born in Macedonia. He was the disciple of Plato. He

taught Alexander the great. He developed the philosophy of arguments and reasoning. He propounded the concept that the sun revolves around the earth.



I nodded hoping she'd change her mind. The next day the kitten lay in a broken wicker basket that I had managed to retrieve from the loft. There was no movement in her. I thought she was dead.

When I felt her she was warm and her heart beat steadily. I decided to invest a little of my pocket money on her. But then, that was not enough. I also needed someone who would care for her. Till then I had to hide her.

Anand, my neighbour had a dog. I was sure he would help me. Anand agreed readily. He even knew where to get milk for Minu. But I had to dole out plenty of money.

When Minu regained her strength I couldn't hide her away in a basket. She jumped on to the window sill one morning. My father was busy reading the newspaper. It was Minu's

plump body that finally helped her out. My father thought she was cute and allowed me to keep her.

Soon Minu grew up into an adult. She gave birth to two kittens. I made a lovely home for Minu in the balcony. She had a large basket filled with rugs. Suddenly one day Minu disappeared. I thought she was gone forever. The kittens grew up on the milk I fed them.

One day while I was playing in the garden I saw Minu. She gave a tiny cry of pleasure and ran up to me. Then without warning she ran into the house and went to the balcony. She licked her two kittens for a long time and then lay beside her kittens. I was puzzled. She has been with her kittens since then but I often wonder if she will run away again.

**J. Vandana, age 11,
St. Mary's MHSS,
Cuddalore**

Galileo Galilei (1564 - 1672)

He was born in Pisa in Italy in 1564. He enunciated the laws of falling bodies. He invented the telescope. His major works are-'Dialogues about the two great systems of the world' and 'Conversations concerning the sciences.' He supported the idea that the earth revolves around the sun.

**Devrishi Hazarika,
Class X, K.V. Nazira,
Assam.**



"A telegram from Rohit, dear."

"Well, did he pass the examination this time?"

"No but he is almost at the top of the list of those who failed."

**- M.A.Majid, age 13,
B.H.E.L. Town-
ship H.S.S.,
Hyderabad.**



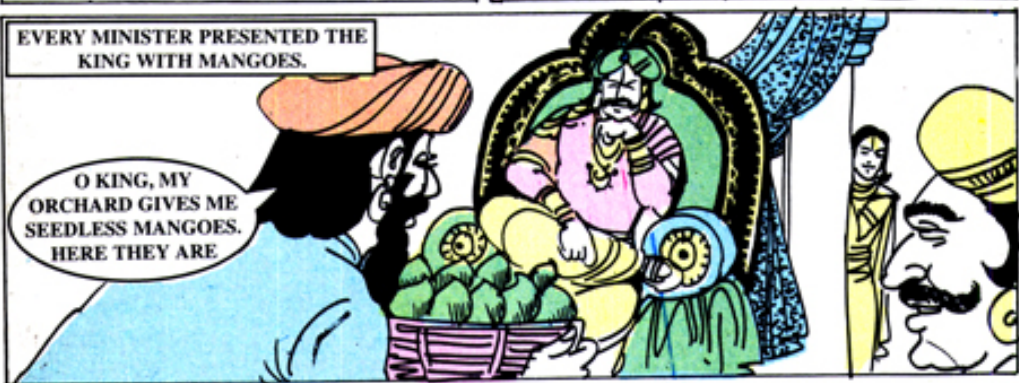
FEAST OF MANGOES

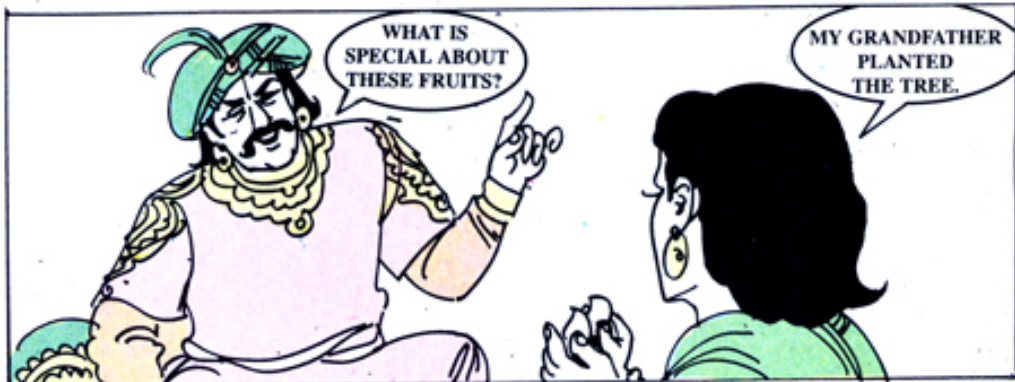
STORY RETOLD BY
AVANTIKA S. MADHAVAN,
VIII - B, KVCLRI, CHENNAI
ILLUSTRATION - **SASI**

IT WAS MANGO SEASON.



EVERY MINISTER PRESENTED THE KING WITH MANGOES.







K. Padmanabhan,
IV A, Sri Aurobindo Ashram,
Calcutta



E. Sivasubramaniam,
IX.C, DTEA SSS,
N.Delhi



B. Padmashree
age 12, PSSSS, Chennai

Ambarish Shrivatsav,
age 12,
Kalpakkam



E. Sivasubramaniam,
K. Radhamani, P. Suma,
Nitya Hariharan,
Pl. send your house address.



L. Bharatharajan,
IV A, NBWSS, Mumbai

P. Suma, age 10,
Carmel HS, Bangalore



K. Radhamani, age 15,
Avila Convent MHSS,
Coimbatore



Nitya Hariharan, age 9,
Fatima HS, Mumbai

N. Tarun,
age 12,
Bangalore
Public School,
Bangalore



GHUT POLE-
VAULTED, AND...

OW!
HELP!

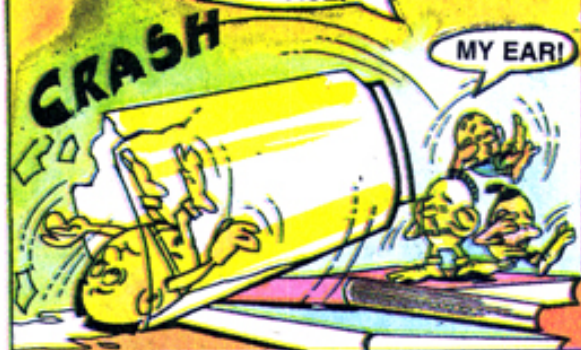


QUICK.
HE'LL
DROWN!



... OOF! WHAT
A NOISE!

MY EAR!



SOMEBODY'S
COMING. QUICK INTO
THE DESK.



THIS
NAUGHTY CAT!
HERE GOES AN-
OTHER GLASS.

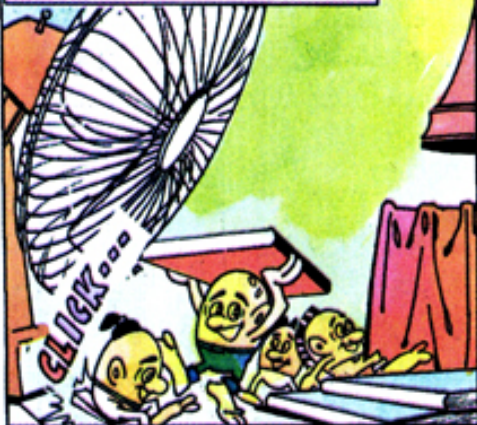


COME, SHE HAS LEFT.

COME
OUT.



ONE OF THEM SAT ON THE SWITCH OF THE FAN.



YEUW...! A STORM! HELP!



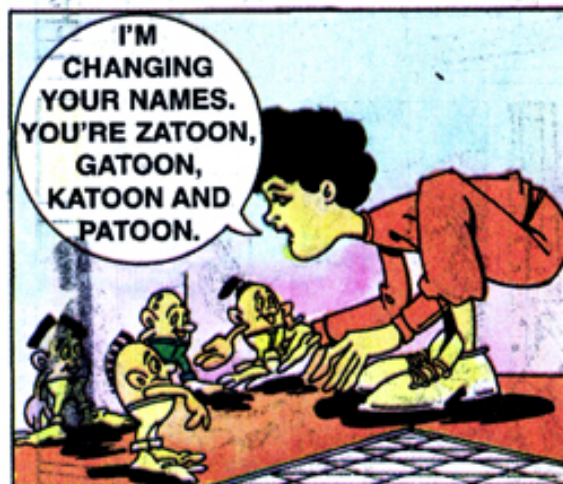
WE'RE DONE FOR!



BALLTOONS, THAT WAS NOT A STORM. IT WAS WIND FROM THE FAN.



I'M CHANGING YOUR NAMES. YOU'RE ZATOON, GATOON, KATOON AND PATOON.



NOW I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND.



TO CONTINUE



Manchester on August 24, 1972.

The first 100 - run partnership was completed by Keith Fletcher and Dennis Amiss, (125 runs) played in Manchester at a match between England and Australia on the same day.

The first 200 - run partnership was completed by Desmond Haynes and Vivian Richards of West Indies (205

The first one-day international was played between Australia and England on January 5, 1971. The match was played at Melbourne Cricket ground. Graham McKenzie bowled the first ball. Geoff Boycott faced the first ball. Alan Thomson claimed the first wicket.

John Edrich of England was the first to complete a half century. The first umpires were Tom Brookes and Low Rowan of Australia. The first 'Man of the Match' award was won by John Edrich.

Dennis Amiss was the first to make a century. He achieved this feat on his debut match, between England and Australia at



* Allen Border

runs) at Melbourne on Dec. 9, 1979.

The first 7-wicket haul was claimed by Winston Davis in Leeds on June 12, 1983, at the one-day played between West Indies and Australia.

The first one-run victory was claimed by Pakistan against New Zealand played at Sialkot, Pakistan on October 16, 1976.

The first hat-trick was claimed by **Jalaluddin** of Pakistan, at the one-day played against Australia on September 20, 1982.

The first 10-wicket victory was claimed by India against East Africa on June 11, 1975 at Leeds.

Shahid Mahboob of Pakistan was the first to claim a wicket with the first ball, during a match between Pakistan and India at Lahore on December 31, 1982.

Waqar Yunis of Pakistan was the first to claim three consecutive five-wicket hauls, at the match between Pakistan and New Zealand during 1990-91.

Rodney Marsh was the first wicket keeper to take five catches at the one-day match played between Australia and England at Leeds on June 8, 1981.

Jonty Rhodes was the first fielder to take five catches. This came about during a match between S. Africa and West Indies at Mumbai, India.

John Bracewell was the first substitute to take four catches at a match played at Adelaide between New Zealand and Australia on Nov. 23, 1980.

Vivian Richards of West Indies was the

first and only player to score 100-runs and take five wickets in the same match, played between W. Indies and New Zealand at Dunedin on March 18, 1987.

Ian Botham of England was the first player to complete the 'double' of 1000 runs and 100 wickets. He reached this record at a one-day match played between England and Australia at Lord's on June 3, 1985.

Kapil Dev of India was the first player to complete 2000 runs and 200 wickets at one day internationals. He achieved this at a match between India and W. Indies at Sharjah on Oct. 22, '91. Sharjah became the first ground to host 100 one day cricket matches. The record was set on April 14, 1996.

Allen Border of Australia was the first to have participated in 200 matches. He reached this figure on Feb. 20, 1990. D. Haynes of W. Indies was the first batsman to score 8,000 runs. He attained this total at Johannesburg on Feb. 27, 1993.

Wasim Akram of Pakistan was the first bowler to claim 300 wickets. The feat was achieved on October 30, '96 at Quetta, Pakistan.

**SURESH
K.ANJUM,
CALCUTTA.**

* Ian Botham



* Wasim Akram



* Vivian Richards





PEACE + CHILDREN = PEACEFUL CHILDREN

A collection of paper collage presentation by V. Balu makes for interesting reading.

Mr. Balu is working for Global Peace Mission through Art.

He advises readers to read just one chapter at a time. You are bound to emerge a better person at the end of it all.

Mr. Balu is a writer and an artist, based in Bangalore, India. His parting shot "If you make every moment peaceful... You will make your life peaceful."

Published by: S.B. Publications, Gitalaya, 1, South Cross Road, Basavagudi, Bangalore - 4. No price mentioned.

Gulmohar, an imprint of Orient Longman Limited, 3-6-272, Himayat Nagar, Hyderabad - 29, has come out with some books for children. Here we review two of them.

FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF



The Birthday Present

This is the story of a young boy who gets to choose a puppy as a birthday present. The boy notices a dog about to be shot because he is ill. The boy chooses this ugly, badly scarred dog, which is not even friendly. The boy's parents try to make him see sense. Finally the boy wins his parents over. How the boy's love and attention brings the dog back on its feet forms the rest of the story.

Written by Nargis Dalal the book is priced Rs. 40.

The Bulbul's Ruby Nose-ring

This book is a collection of stories for children aged between 4 and 8. There are five stories on how animals and birds have the power to communicate with each other. One story, *Ramu and the Policeman*, deals with the irrational fear children have for the uniformed men. Finally, it is the uniformed policeman with his burly body and rigid face who helps the boy reach his home, when he gets lost at a fair. Written by Shanta Rameshwar Rao, it is priced Rs. 30.

Akil was in fourth standard. He went to a good school and his parents loved him a lot.

Akil, however, had a bad habit. He never helped his friends when they needed his help.

One day, Akil's benchmate, Raju forgot to bring his scale. Raju said

dren were singing prayers. Akil thanked his lucky stars and joined the assembly. All did not go well for Akil that day.

During the first period to his horror he discovered he had forgotten his pencil. He asked Raju to lend him a spare pencil. But Raju refused. He then asked Sheela. Sheela too refused.

In the next period the geography teacher asked him to stand outside the class for not bringing a pencil. Akil felt sorry for himself.

In the afternoon during the history class he noticed that he had forgotten his history textbook.

Akil was made to stand on the bench. At the end of the day Akil

was close to tears. He was scolded that day by two teachers for forgetting to bring pencils. Akil wished he had been nice to Raju and Sheela. At least then he wouldn't have had to cut such a sorry figure.

Now, Akil does not refuse to help his friends when they need it. Akil's friends don't let him down when he forgets to bring a pencil or a textbook to school.

**K. Geetha Bharathi, IV B,
Balalok MHSS, Chennai.**



SELFISH AKIL

to Akil, "please lend me your scale."

Akil said, "if you don't have a scale tell the teacher." Raju had to ask Sheela for her scale. He was scolded by the teacher for talking during class. Another day, Sheela who sat in the row behind Akil's row in school asked him to lend her his rubber. Akil refused.

One day Akil woke late. He had to run to school to be on time. When he reached school, the chil-

Part IV

About a century after colonisation, mutiny broke out. By the time Mastario became independent, half its wealth was lost. Ivan Fridvay became its emperor after independence. He worked hard to bring Mastario back on its feet in under two decades.

During the peak of mutiny there was an all-out hunt for him. Fridvay

had to plan very diligently his escape route. The townspeople loved Ivan Fridvay.

Ivan Fridvay spent his time in the cellar with mice and rodents. He learnt to befriend these creatures by and by. Occasionally Ivan made his appearance in the market town close to the fort. Once a few guards recognised Ivan and chased him. Ivan ran



THE SILVER RAT

to the safety of the cellers. His pursuers were hot on his heels and entered the cellar. Ivan managed to escape through a cavern he had dug in the cellar.

The soldiers could not enter the cavern as the rats took over the cavern. Ivan managed to reach St. Paul's church. He climbed up the church and rang the huge bell. The townspeople gathered at the church.

Ivan was by then exhausted. Just as he fell off the roof of the church, the mob that had gathered below saved him. This was the beginning of the rebellion against General Lawson, who was ruling Mastario then. After three years of fierce battle Mastario won independence Ivan had a silver rat idol carved in memory of the rats that had saved him at St. Richmond fort.



"So how was that?" Bharath asked. "Interesting", Anand replied.

The parliament session was boring. When Anand could stand it no longer, he turned to Philip and whispered, "Shall we go?"

"I was waiting for something like that," Philip exclaimed.

The three boys made their way out of the parliament house.

Outside Philip asked, "What shall we do now?"

Bharath said, "Let's visit St. Richmond fort and St. Paul's church."

Anand put in, "I want to see how Ivan Fridway lived."

They reached St. Richmond fort.

Since it was far from the city Philip drove them to the fort in his car. They walked up to the door of the fort. It was locked. "Can we go in?" Anand asked.

"Obviously not," Philip replied.

Bharath examined the hinges of the door.

"Is this being maintained by the state?" he asked.

"I don't know," Philip replied. "I have never asked my father anything about it."

"Look at this, a shoe-print, deeper and bigger than ours," Bharath pointed out.

"Yes, It resembles the print of shoes worn by patrolling army. Perhaps it is maintained by the state," Philip said.

The boys walked around the fort admiring its architecture and

magnificence.

They even visited the cavern through which Ivan Fridvay had escaped.

"Looks like animals don't graze here," Bharath said pointing to the rich grassy patch compared to the less bushy growth further down the path.

"That's because for the past five years animals that graze near here fall sick and die. Some poisonous plant is believed to grow around here."

"Are you sure?" Bharath asked.

"Yes, I am."

"Where's St. Paul's church?"

"Hmmm, a furlong from here."

"May we go there?"

"No. Some other day. It's already half past twelve."

"At least show us where it is?" Anand persisted.

"Ok, just follow me," Philip replied as he made his way along a well-trodden path. A little later he stopped and said, "just follow the path and you will reach the church. But now it's time we returned home for lunch."

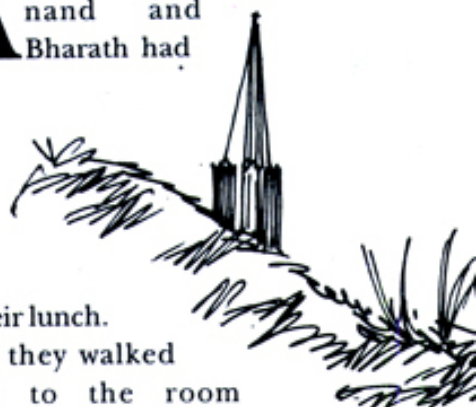
The three boys returned to the guest house. Philip dropped them at the gate and said, "tomorrow we will have

parliament session as usual."

"Oh no." Anand and Bharath chorused.

"Thanks a million," Philip said a wide smile on his face as the car moved.

Anand and Bharath had



their lunch.

As they walked

up to the room

Bharath put a restraining arm on Anand. He knelt down and peeped under the door.

"Someone or something has entered the room through the door." Bharath said.

"How do you know?"

"I placed a piece of chalk beneath the door before leaving. If someone entered the room through the door, the chalk would have been dragged along leaving a white streak. That's what has happened."

From the ad....

Tendulkar : Boost is the secret of my energy.

Kapildev : If Boost is the secret of your energy and if it is a secret why are you revealing it?

**S. Karthikeyan,
Madurai.**





safe from intruders something zipped past them. Anand stood still, terror written on his face. Bharath noticed a series of holes on the wall opposite the door.

Soon the zipping sounds stopped. The boys entered the room slowly. Bharath tapped Anand on his back. Words failed both the boys. Anand turned in the direction Bharath's finger was pointing.

A cable was connected to the door's lever. The cable then ran along the floor and was connected to a semi-automatic gun that was mounted on a stand and placed to face the door.

The wind could have knocked the chalk off," Anand suggested.

"Yes, but I closed all the windows before leaving. Besides what's wrong if we are a little cautious?"

"Alright you win."

"If we just walk in, I guess we'll be deliberately walking into a trap. So stand back."

Bharath leaned against the door and opened it. Just as he felt they were

The boys realised in no time what had been planned. The gun had been fixed with a silencer.

When the gun was triggered all they could hear was the zipping of the bullets.

To continue...

S. Srikanth, age 17,

Kudremukh.

During history class

Teacher : What did Caesar exclaim when Brutus stabbed him?

Student : Ouch!

G. Kavinhesh Kumaran,
age 12,

Sishya School, Hosur



Rhinoceros and hippopotamus are perhaps the only surviving creatures from the past. Their ungainly bodies and their thick skin are a reminder of the age of dinosaurs. The rhinos' legs are short, stubby and stumplike. Their skin is unpenetrable like an armour. Hippos too have short stubby feet but their hide is not as thick as the rhinoceros.



Once before man inhabited the continents, the rhinos were found in all habitable continents except Australia. Now, however, rhinos are found in Africa and India. The Indian rhino is largely a peaceful animal.

The Javan rhinoceros is smaller than the Indian rhino and has one horn. Its skin is not as patterned as the Indian rhinoceros'. The

Sumatran rhino is hairy and is almost four and a half feet in length. It weighs a ton and has two horns. Africa has both black and white rhinos. The rhinos that are grey in colour are called black rhinos and those black in colour are called white rhinos.

The white rhinos are larger and have a square upper lip. It helps the rhino to grapple the grass and feed. The black rhino has a pointed upper lip that overhangs the lower

HIPPOS AND

lip. This helps the rhino to collect the branches of shrubs and low hanging trees. These rhinos don't have teeth. The black rhino measures upto four feet while the white rhino is above five feet in length.

Rhinoceros make the dry scrubby plains their homes. They keep close to water sources. The rhinos go to drink water either at night or early in the morning. They enjoy a



mud bath and tumble in the dust. This protects them from insect bites and parasites.

A rhino can rest peacefully because there are a few birds that make a meal of the parasites attacking the rhino's hide. The rhino's enemies are the crocodiles and man. A rhino is never truly tamed or friendly. Rhinos kept in zoos are known to attack their keeper, given a chance.

The hippopotamus are the second largest mammals after the elephants. A hippo weighs three to four tons. It is about three to four feet high and is about 13 to 15 ft.

RHINOS

long. A hippo needs atleast 400 pounds of food.

The hippo is more at home in water. He stays in water all day and comes ashore at night. The hippo can eat up an entire cultivated field of corns or sugarcane. The hippo will keep only its ears and nose out of water.

Hippos can stay underwater

for at least ten minutes without breathing. They are excellent and fast swimmers too. Hippos enjoy wallowing in still waters. They keep off swirling currents.

Mother hippos play with their children like dogs with puppies. Mother hippos will allow their babies to ride on their



back if they find that their baby is tiring. In countries like Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, we come across pigmy hippos. The pigmy hippo is only 30 inches tall and weighs about 1250 kgs.

Though hippos love water, they prefer dense forests and thick undergrowths. These help the hippo to hide from its predators. A hippo can move with deceptive stealth and fool the hunter.

A rhino horn is considered to have magical properties. It has been excessively hunted for its horn. Today, however, rhinos in national parks do not sport horns. They are removed by the keepers themselves to prevent poachers.



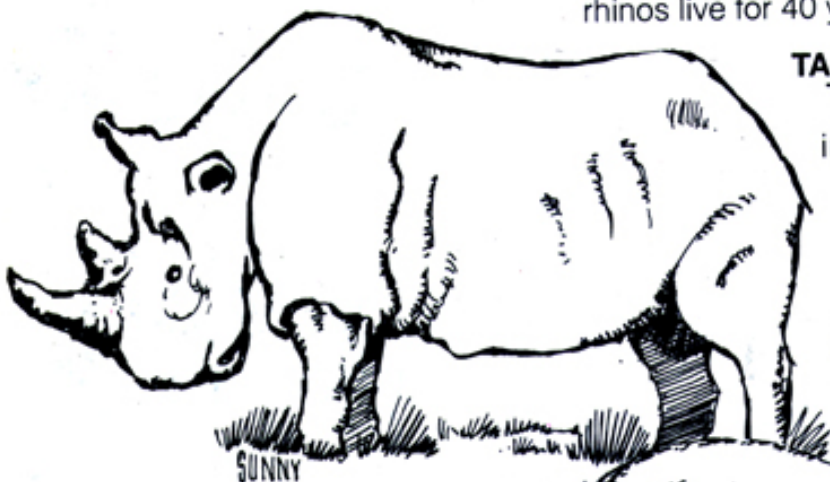
* A rhino taking a mud bath

White Male rhinos are usually loners. If one of the males is strong, a few female rhinos will form a group and have the male rhino as their leader. Such a group will have atleast ten rhinos. Hippos never go alone.

Baby hippos feed on mother's milk upto one year. Hippos can learn to survive when they are seven. Female hippos are considered adult when they turn five. The gestation period for a hippo is eight months. Hippos live for 30 years. A rhino's life span is 45 years. Black rhinos live for 40 years.

TAPIRS

They are found in the Brazilian forests and some parts of Malaya. They are shy and move stealthily. They are soft-footed crea-



• The African 2-horned rhino

They always live in groups. In a group you can count atleast 20 hippos.

Black rhinos are loners. They are fast becoming extinct. Baby rhinos live on their mother's milk for two years. Male rhinos attain adulthood at the age of seven while female rhinos are ready for child bearing when they are five years old.

A female rhino gives birth to only one baby at a time. Male rhinos and hippos spread their dung to a distance of atleast two metres immediately after laying it. This helps to attract female rhinos and warn other male rhinos about its presence.



• Tapir

tures. They will fight ferociously if they find their young ones are in danger. Tapirs are known to fight even tigers and lions to save their young ones. Tapirs have been very ruthlessly hunted. Their bones are the only reminders of what they were. Tapirs are vegetarian mammals that are probably the most soft-footed of all mammals.

CAPITAL ME

Lucknow
Chandigarh
Chennai
Bangalore
India's capital New Delhi

$$1^3 + 5^3 + 3^3$$

$$3^3 + 7^3 + 0^3$$

$$3^3 + 7^3 + 1^3$$

$$4^3 + 0^3 + 7^3$$

FUN MATHS

$$41^2 + 78^2$$

$$51^2 + 57^2$$

$$71^2 + 48^2$$

$$62^2 + 79^2$$

$$72^2 + 69^2$$

Can you guess? Vegetable Riddles!

1. Carrot
2. Pea
3. Potato
4. Tomato
5. Cabbage
6. Pumpkin.

It's Education

Oh! Its all education
Maths - It's calculation
Physics - It's Acceleration
Chemistry - It's Filtration
Geography - It's Population

1. DODO, 2. MAMMOTH,
3. KOALA, 4. CAMEL, 5. DEER,
6. OWL, 7. ZEBRA, 8. WASP
9. HARE, 10. RAT

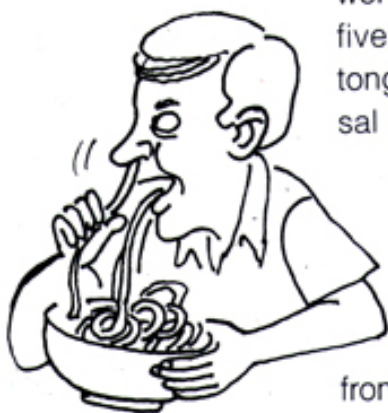
CURRENCIES OF THE WORLD

C	B	L	D	D	Y	U	A	N	P
A	E	H	K	W	A	G	H	A	T
I	B	D	C	S	W	O	R	U	R
N	Q	K	I	F	V	H	A	E	Q
A	F	R	A	T	A	Y	K	T	B
I	M	A	A	A	Y	X	D	A	V
R	R	N	T	K	G	L	H	O	N
A	U	D	K	A	S	T	J	K	Y
A	G	U	I	L	D	E	R	X	E
Z	W	H	A	I	P	U	R	J	C

English - It's Composition
Biology - It's Classification
History - It's Civilisation

K. Anirudh, age 12,
ST Joseph's
Public School,
Hyderabad





SPAGHETTI RECORD

Kevin Cole of Carisbad holds the Guinness record for blowing a 19 cm long spaghetti out of his nose. Kevin is pleased that he has been able to put Carisbad on the

world map. He bested the former world record holder, Matt Welch by five cm. Kevin said he used his tongue to push the pasta to his nasal passages.

REUNITED AT LAST

A brother and sister from England, separated 80 years ago during World War I were reunited. Daisy Bance, 85 and Albert, 84 were reunited by their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Daisy was separated from her brother who was only four years old then, when the two were put in different orphanages in England. Albert Bance was shipped to Canada when he was 14, to work on an eastern township farm.

BUDDHIST GOLD ICON

Chinese artists in Shenzhen have crafted the world's largest gold-plated Buddhist icon. The 3.8 m. statue of 'Kuan-Yin', the Buddhist goddess of mercy required more than 100 kg of gold and took a team of artists more than two years to complete. The Guinness recognises it as the largest Bud-



dhist statue of its kind till date.

HANKY MUSEUM

Germany held a 'hanky museum' during its Textiles museum in Krefeld in December 1998.

Considering handkerchiefs lead the nastiest, most brutish and shortest life, they deserve a mention. They are often crumpled up and forgotten in handbags and trouser pockets though they form part of the 'basic equipment' of civilisation.

BAD-LOOKING FLOWERS

Researchers have found out that the first flowers that appeared on earth were no great beauties. A fossil, considered to be more than 125 million years old, showed the flower did not have colourful petals. The 'Archaeofructus' found in northeast China is believed to be 125-142 million years old.

NEW YEAR FOOD

People in different parts of the



world believe that certain food items bring good luck if consumed on New Year's Day.

The Japanese believe eating a kind of fish, the 'red snapper' is lucky. In Greece cakes are baked with a coin inside it. It is called 'peta'. Whoever gets the coin is believed to be in luck for the rest of the year.

In some parts of Europe a pig is roasted and served with an apple or an orange in its mouth.

In the southern United States, black-eyed peas are supposed to bring good luck.

Suresh K. Anjum, Calcutta.



Two robbers were arrested.

1st Policeman : I know these robbers.

2nd Policeman : How do you know them?

1st Policeman : They robbed my house yesterday.

B. Ramprasad, IX A, Jawahar HSS, Neyveli.

My father is a forest officer. He was allotted a house inside the reserve forest. In the forest, the nights were pitch dark. It gave room for many horror stories. In the nights, we were surrounded by calls of owls, jackals, and other insects. All this would not have touched my heart, had it not been for my passion for Z horror shows. Our house often reminded

Suddenly I was woken up by some noise. It was a single tap on my bedroom door. I looked out of the window. The trees beyond the compound wall swayed in the breeze. I looked back at the clock. It struck 12 times. It was twelve in the night.

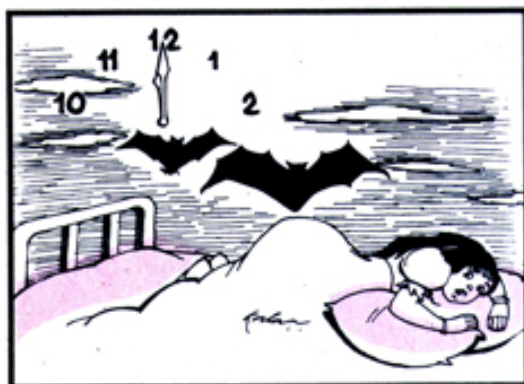
I waited for the next tap on the door. But there was none. My mind wandered to the conversation my father and grandmother had the

GHOST ADVENTURE

me of the locales where these horror shows were shot.

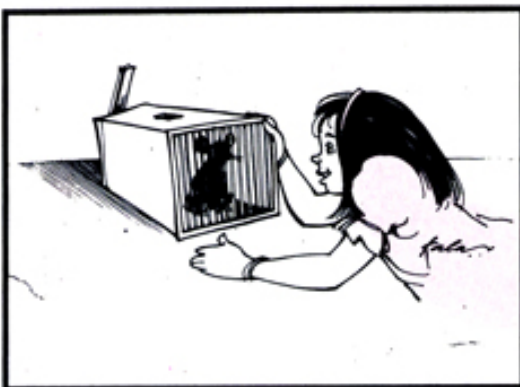
One day, I went to bed early. My bed was close to the window. I left the window open so that I could gaze into the forest if I couldn't sleep. A cool breeze was blowing. I settled down in my bed. Soon, I was asleep.

previous night. My grandmother said, one night when she was sleeping in the drawing room, just around midnight, she felt her saree being pulled at. She woke up to find nobody around. Just as she began to think it was her imagination, she felt somebody slap her feet.



My father had told her that it was the imagination of her fevered brain. He said it was as imaginative as the opinion about the house we had been allotted by the government.

He said, a forest officer, a predecessor to my father had died in the same house of some mysterious



illness. My grandma concluded that the house was possessed. Though my father waved aside her remark I was willing to believe my grandma because she was older and more experienced than my father.

I must have fallen asleep during these musings. I was woken up by the screams of a girl from the living room. I got up from my bed and

ran into the living room. The maid was holding aloft a rat trap. Everytime the rat moved in its trap the maid screamed. It was morning.

My father was saying, "finally he is caught. He had been creating much trouble for sometime now. At last we can live in peace. Set him free far from the house so that he doesn't return." I recalled last night's sequence of events. The tap on my door was actually the rat trap closing over the rat.

I was glad I hadn't made a fool of myself by running to my parents' room for refuge. I would have made a laughing stock of myself!

Indeed, suspicion is the real ghost.

**A. Padmaja, Std. VII,
GNM PS, Paonta Sahib, HP.**

1. Which hair can sit down?
2. Which key can fly?
3. Which alphabet wears spectacles?
4. Which fort leads to success?
5. Which pillar has life?
6. Which bat can never fly?
7. Which room sweeps the floor?
8. Which bird has an initial?

RIDDLES



9. Which alphabet can fly?

**S. Maheshwari, age 14,
Salem.**

Answers : 1. Chair, 2. Turkey, 3. I (eye), 4. Effort, 5. Caterpillar, 6. Cricket bat, 7. Broom, 8. P. Cock (peacock), 9. B (bee).

Colours have various effects on a human being. Yellow creates a sense of well-being and brings cheer to the beholder while blue has a soothing and soporific effect on a man! Yellow and blue are opposite in their effects.

A person 'looks blue' if he is depressed or nervous. 'Blue funk' is uncontrollable fear, while 'blue devil' is overwhelming depression. You are

a 'true blue' if you are truly faithful to someone. 'Blue blood' denotes birth of a high order or of royalty. The 'blue book' gives the personal details of the U.S. Government officials.

A person who 'drinks till all's blue' is completely drunk. 'The blue coat boys' are the poor scholars studying in charity schools. 'Blue ribbon' is the greatest honour that can be achieved in any field. It also denotes teetotalism.

'Blue Peter' is the blue flag with a white square hoisted before sailing. A 'blue stocking' refers to a woman who either really has or affects to have literary tastes and learning. 'Once in a blue moon' means it is a rare event. 'Blue laws' were those severe Puritan Laws that were in practice among the early colonists of Connecticut.

'Yellow Boys' are always welcomed by everyone as they stand for gold coins. Yellow is the colour of the royal costume in China. 'Yellow peril' is the fear that the yellow race of Chinese and Mongolians will overpower the white race in future.

'Yellow press' sells sensational news. 'Yellow pages' is the best place to advertise one's salable commodities. The 'yellow spot' is the most sensitive spot in the retina of the human eye. Yellow backs are cheap novels. A cowardly person is 'yellow blooded' but papers and leaves 'yellow with age'.

**K.R. Visalakshi,
Coimbatore**

March '99 **GOKULAM**

ARE YOU TURNING YELLOW OR BLUE?

* If you look gloomy, it means you are in your blue mood.



The New Year may begin on the first of January, but for students, the first day of the new academic year is an all important day. It is not just 'another new year' at school. As a pupil, you enter not just with hopes as in the case of 'new year'. You also step into a new year of knowledge, maturity, growth and experience.

Elevated to a higher class, you can certainly take pride in looking back. What was difficult (the multiplication tables, for example) is not that bad now, what was hard to

with simply no effort at all (even plants and animals do it!); what matters is growing up - in the true sense. Now that you are literate enough to read this column, you have in yourself, a tremendous degree of potential: that which can bring out the best in you. Remember that all great scientists and other celebrities were your age once. So were notorious criminals, assassins and terrorists.

You may choose to be a 'this' or a 'that'; it is already time to start working on it

MAKE THE BLUEPRINT NOW!



memorise (the periodic table of elements, for example) is quite a simple matter. You may laugh, when you think how
y o u

wept and wailed on being sent to school as a child. Will you choose to stay indoors on a working day now (although there are those inevitable tests!) - away from friends and the games period? Certainly not!

We can call this change in you an evolution. A change for the better, rather. Growing old is no big affair - you can do it

now. To become a promising adult one day, here are a few tips:

1) Learn to work on a typewriter: Operating those omnipresent computers in later years will become simpler.

2) Gain proficiency in two prominent Indian languages (other than your mother tongue) and in atleast one foreign language (other than english). It will come in handy later.

3) Get yourself trained in some musical instrument, or even in vocal music. This will help you immensely to relax in the tension-filled adult years and might even win you accolades from your colleagues.

4) Learn swimming and of course, cycling.

CANDLE STAND

1. Roll a long strip of colour paper of size 12cm X 7.5 cm.

2. Slit the roll horizontally to 5 cm.length.

3. Spread the leaves and fold downwards.

4. Pull out the centre gently.

5. Paste the edges of the roll.

6. Your candle stand is ready.

**Deepika Khanwadia, age 12,
AECS, Tarapur - 1,
Thane.**



These will help you keep fit physically and help you in some contingencies later.

5) Learn the techniques of meditation. The well-being of your mind determines how



successful you are in your later life.

Does this list seem long? Certainly not. If you do not equip yourself now when you are at school, you may probably never find time in this fast-paced life later! And forget not - there will always be another list of 'must dos' for the next stage in your life.

The real success in your adult life can come only if you are going to be a wonderful human being. Needless to list that you inculcate and cherish the great human values - compassion, patience, dignity, tolerance and perseverance.

So, go ahead, plan your future and start shaping your tomorrows from this moment.

Radha Krishnan, Pondicherry

If we abide by all superstitions regarding Friday then it will be a day of total rest.

Sailors believe it's unlucky to set sail on a Friday. 'A Friday's sail always fails' goes a phrase.

Traditional fear of Friday spelling bad, dates back to stories of the flood that started on a Friday. Jesus Christ was crucified on a Friday.

How the day was named is still disputed. It came from the name of two Norse gods - Freya, the goddess of love, and Frigga, the wife of Odin. In the US Friday is the day of execution. For some, Friday is the unluckiest day.

However, in most parts of India Friday is considered auspicious. Indian women exchange vermilion and prepare special delicacies to please goddess Kali.

Why is thirteen an unlucky number?

This superstition is so strong and widespread that it extends from Argentina to New Zealand and from Scotland to Siberia. The number 13 brings with it shudders of foreboding.

Triskaidekaphobia, fear of the number 13, is said to come from Norse mythology.

Odin's son Balder, the god of peace and light, went to a banquet in Valhalla.

Loki, the god of discord was an uninvited thirteenth guest. He tricked

Hoder, the blind god and a symbol of darkness, to shoot and kill Balder with an arrow of mistletoe.

Another superstition is that if 13 people dine together, the first to leave will die before the year is out. At a dinner including royalty, the royal guests are always the first to rise from the table. For this reason, no royal dinner has a table for 13.

Jesus Christ was crucified after his



WHY IS FRIDAY UNLUCKY?

supper where 13 people had partaken food.

**R. Senbaga Poonguzhali, VILA,
St. Francis Anglo Indian GHS,
Coimbatore.**

A budget is an estimate of future expenses and income. It is not just the country or the state that prepares a budget.

Every individual who is earning prepares a list of items he needs. When we receive our pocket money don't we think about our expenses? We often ask our parents for a raise and more often than not our parents put forth umpteen questions. Many times we don't have a proper answer to their questions. We end up with having just enough money to keep us afloat.

A country's budget is almost similar to the account we keep of our pocket money. Only, the people who present the budget are accountable to the entire country.

In a democratic country, the ruling party alone can present the budget. The budget is presented in the parliament. The parliament analyses the budget thoroughly.

There are debates and discussions. Each department mentioned in the budget comes for scrutiny. Only when the parliament is convinced is the budget passed.

When a budget is presented in India, it is taken up by both the ruling party and the opposition for discussions. The budget is discussed threadbare. The MPs in Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, who represent the people begin the

analysis. Tension during budget presentation is palpable. New taxes and levies imposed are questioned.

In India we have an annual budget. The annual budget is usually presented in the month of March. The Railway budget precedes the annual budget. The states and the union territories of India will then present their individual budgets. These proposals are discussed in the respective legislative assemblies by the elected MLAs of both the ruling party and the opposition. In the states too, only the ruling party can present a budget.

A budget is often classified as a good budget, a bad budget or an indifferent budget.

A good budget often makes way for plenty of developmental activities and does not impose unnec-



essary taxes.

If a budget supports subsidies based on the need to garner votes for an election, it is considered a bad budget. Such a budget can only harm the economy of a coun-



Both houses of the parliament have to approve of the budget. If the ruling party has a majority in the parliament the budget is passed without much problem. If a budget is presented by a ruling party to a hung parliament, it is not easy to get the budget passed. If a majority of MPs approve of the budget, irrespective of their party leanings, then too the budget is considered passed.

Just as we try to make compromises and adjustments, so does the government try to accommodate the needs of various parts of the country. A country's budget is prepared

keeping in mind the national resources, the country's needs, the population and contingencies like natural disasters and wars.

So, this time when you receive your pocket money, make out a list of items you need immediately. Prepare a list of items you will need in future. And finally, set apart 10% of your pocket money as savings. You will be surprised that you can meet your contingencies without asking for a raise!

BLUES

y.
When a budget has little development plans and does not envisage anything to better the lot of the country it is called an indifferent budget.



①



②



③



④

CHECK IT OUT CONTEST NO. 9

Identify these cricketers. Send in your answers to us by April 10, '99.
Ten correct entries will be chosen by lot and prizes awarded to them.
Paste this coupon on your answer sheet giving your full address and age.



- 5) V. Srikanth, age - 12,
Mumbai
- 6) Sidesh S. Bharne, age - 13,
Vidhya Mandir, Chicalim, Goa
- 7) Aparna Sundaresan, age - 11,
Calcutta
- 8) N.P.Akshayashree, age - 14,
Adarsh Vidhyalaya,
MHSS (Royapettah) Chennai
- 9) S. Pradeep, age - 12,
Krishnagiri
- 10) S. Devi Sharanya, age - 11,
PSBBSSS, Chennai

Winners chosen by lot of Check it out contest no. 7

- 1) Swetha Sridhar, age - 12,
SIAHS, Dobivili (W), Thane
- 2) G.Karthikaa, age - 12,
Coonor
- 3) Jobin Joseph,
St. Columbus School, New Delhi
- 4) K. Vishnupriya, age - 14,
Haldwani, UP

ANSWERS:

The structure is India Gate.
It is also remembered on
Martyr's Day.

Each winner will be sent
Rs. 10/- by M.O.

Ramlal and Arjun Singh were neighbours.

Ramlal was very poor while Arjun Singh was wealthy. He was a miser. Ramlal had a wife and four children to support while Arjun Singh had no children.

One day while Ramlal's children were playing on the street the stick they were playing with hit the miser. Arjun Singh did not waste any time. He caught hold of two of Ramlal's children and beat them up.

When Ramlal came to know of this he walked up to Arjun Singh's house and asked why he had beaten up his children.

Arjun Singh said the boys had hit him. This made Ramlal angry. He asked, "Do you remember Arjun Singh when we were children we used to play together. One day you punched my nose because I wouldn't give you my bat. I beat you up because you punched my nose. Your father said to you 'you deserved it because you were nasty.'"

This only made Arjun Singh more angry. One day, Arjun Singh noticed there was no sugar in his house. He had never taken his tea without sugar. Arjun Singh had to ask Ramlal to spare him some



WISE NEIGHBOUR

sugar because the shops too were closed on that day due to a bandh. Ramlal readily offered him a bowl of sugar. But he did not forget to say, "Remember Arjun Singh, I don't have to be nice to you at all. But I am your true friend. You never lend me anything even when I need it. Instead, you even beat up my children. I am still a true friend."

Arjun Singh realised that day that he had indeed been acting like a fool. Since then, Arjun Singh turned a new leaf. He let Ramlal's children play without bothering them.. He even invited Ramlal's children for a delicious lunch on special occasions!

**G.S. SEETHARAM, Std. IV,
Gnanoday School,
Bangalore.**

BODY FACTS



A new-born baby has 300 bones, some of which later fuse to 206 in the adult.
A new born baby has a brain that weighs three ounces. The average brain of an adult weighs three pounds.

There are about 26 billion cells in a new born baby. There are about 100 trillion cells in an adult.

Each eye weighs 1¼ ounces. The eyes are constantly in motion even during sleep.

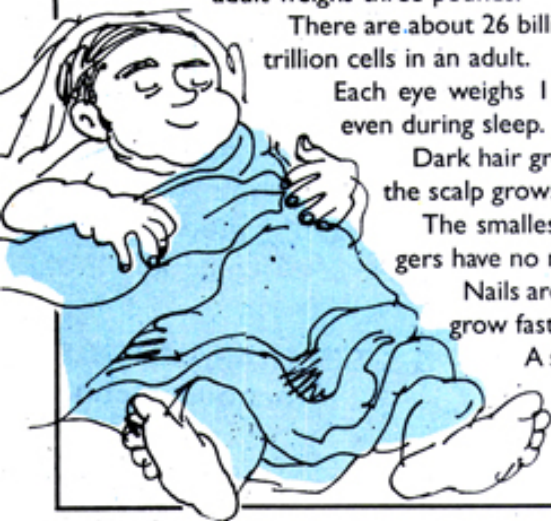
Dark hair grows faster than light-coloured hair. Each hair on the scalp grows about five inches a year.

The smallest muscle in the body is in the middle ear. The eardrums have no muscles.

Nails are made up of hardened skin called keratin. Nails grow faster in summer than winter.

A substance called melanin gives colour to the skin. The more the melanin the darker the skin.

G. Sri Madhura, age 10
VI D, Sri Sita Ram Vidhyalaya H. S. School, Chennai



Once upon a time all animals lived together in a forest. Among all the animals the dog was different. It ran around the forest. It was more alert compared to the cows and bulls. Its sense of hearing and smell were very sharp. It could smell an animal a long way off. The dog was always alert. He ran around the forest.

The king lion appointed the dog as the commander of the forest. This made the dog very proud. He

became arrogant. While the other animals were friendly the dog alone played by himself. In fact, he would intervene in the games of the animals and create mischief. The dog had a long tail. He would use it as a stick and would often irritate other animals by

CURSED TAIL





the tail now bent upwards. It could not be used as a stick to beat other animals. When the dog found that its tail

could not create mischief for other animals, it felt it had been humiliated. It decided to run away from the forest.

The dog soon arrived at a village. It saw a farmer. The dog wagged its tail hoping to attract the farmer's attention. The farmer who noticed that the dog was humble was intrigued. He offered the dog a piece of meat. The dog ate up the meat and lay at the farmer's feet. The farmer noticed that the dog had a keen sense of hearing and smell.

The farmer made the dog his watchdog. The dog too decided human beings were kinder than the animals in the forest. Since then the dog has forgotten about its beautiful tail. Its tail has become a symbol of humility.

waving his long tail at them. When the dog's interference became unbearable the other animals went to the king and complained. The king asked the dog to appear before him.

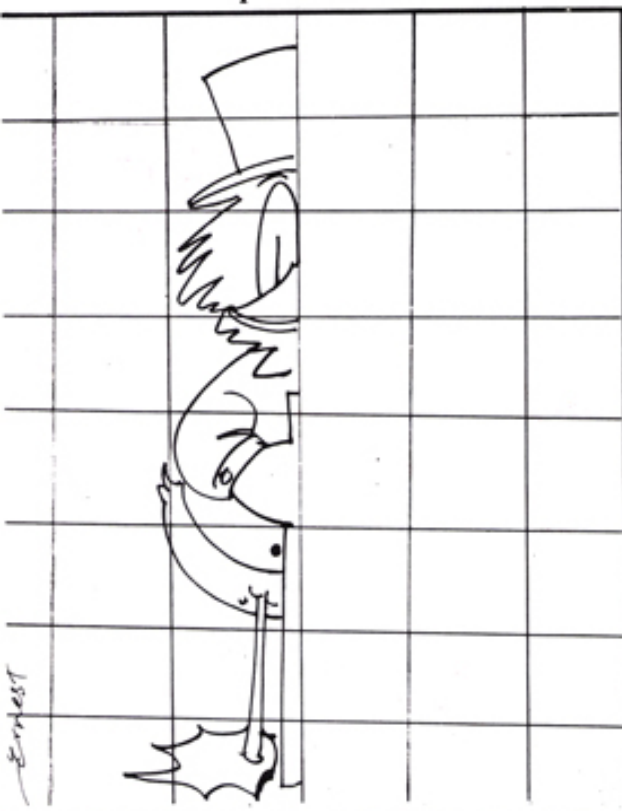
The dog was very rude. He said, his tail was the gift of God. If he chose to play mischief with the other animals using his tail then they had to put up with it. It was his privilege!

The dog's reply annoyed the king. The king ordered that the dog's tail be tied up for a month. This punishment upset the dog very much. After a month the dog's tail was untied. To its shock the dog noticed that

**Dr. M.P. Gurusamy
Triuchendur**

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Draw the other half of the picture



Quiz

Name the rivers on whose banks these cities are.

- 1) Paris, 2) New York, 3) London,
- 4) Moscow, 5) Lahore, 6) Belgrade,
- 7) Cairo, 8) Rome, 9) Baghdad,
- 10) Montreal.

L. Bhargav, age 10,
Ushodaya Public School,
Amadalavalasa
10) Stalwarance
7) Nile 8) Tiber 9) Tigris
4) Moskua 5) Ravi 6) Danube
1) Seine 2) Hudson 3) Thames

Answers:



Principal: What should a teacher know before trying to instruct a student?

Teacher: More than the student!

M. Bunty Jain, T. Nagar, Chennai.

OLDEST ENGINE

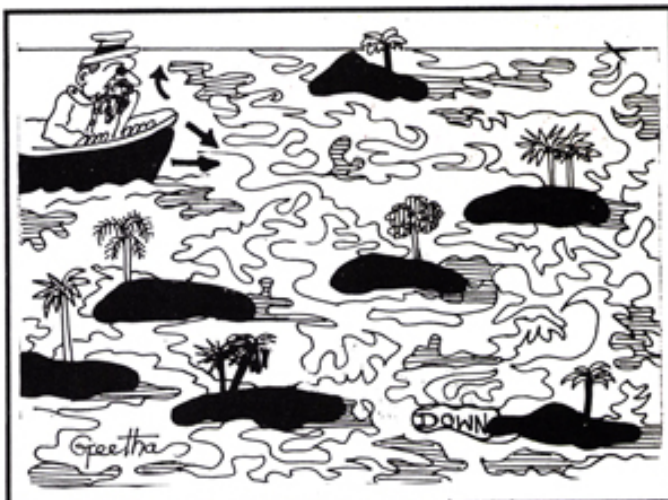
Like many freedom fighters, she also got a chance to tell her story.

'Fairy Queen', the world's oldest working steam engine, took a 147-km journey down memory lane, between Delhi and Alwar on October 18, 1997, as part of India's celebration of 50 years of Independence.

SKA, Calcutta



Help the sailor to reach the island



கலர் புல் சலுகை



எத்தனையோ வகை !
அத்தனையும் சுவை !!



இலவசம்

எல்பா மில்க் பிளென்ட் ஒன்று வாங்கினால்
Today's ஸ்கெட்ச் பென் ஒன்று இலவசம்*



*இச்சலுகை ஸ்டாக் உள்ளவரை மட்டுமே

ISHWARYA